FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 MARCH 1985

Iran-Iraq War

Six people were killed on board an Iranian supply vessel during a missile attack on Iran's oil terminal at Khark Island, according to shipping sources cited by KUNA. Neither Iranian nor Iraqi media have reported the attack on Khark Island. An Iraqi military spokesman, in an announcement broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, declared that an Iranian F-5 plane was shot down by Iraqi planes over Iranian territory north of Sanandaj on 20 March and reiterated the warning that Iranian airspace is considered an exclusion zone. Meanwhile, Tehran and Baghdad radios reported Iraqi planes attacked the Iranian cities of Tabriz, Hamadan and Dezful late on 20 March. Iran hit the Iraqi cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Mandali, Beydarvaz, Khurmal, and Sayyid Sadiq with artillery fire the same day, an Iranian military communique cited by Tehran radio maintained.

On the diplomatic front, India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sent a high-level delegation to Baghdad and Tehran for talks aimed at stopping the Gulf war, Delhi radio disclosed. Prior to his delegation's departure for Baghdad, India's minister for external relations acknowledged that only "moral pressure" on behalf of India and the Nonaligned Movement can be used in the negotiations, the radio noted.

Lebanon

Phalangist Crisis — The Lebanese Forces suspended its rules for a 6-month transitional period following a 20 March meeting of the Lebanese Forces "emergency committee," Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The emergency committee was converted to an "executive committee" and Samir Ja'ja' was appointed as the Lebanese Forces chief of General Staff, the radio announced. Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid Karami, in comments broadcast by the radio, said the 20 March cabinet session issued the necessary instructions to the Lebanese Army to put an end to "current developments." Karami declared that the events in Sidon cannot be accepted or tolerated.

IDF, Lebanese Army Clash — Citing security sources, Beirut radio asserted that Israeli troops parachuted into 'Arab Salim and surrounding villages and, along with troops in military vehicles, established positions before moving north along two axes. The sources added that "violent fighting" raged between the Israeli forces and the Lebanese Army in the area.

Egypt

In response to an OAU invitation, Egypt decided to attend an Afro-Arab cooperation conference to be held in Libya, Cairo radio announced.

Israel on PLO-Jordan Agreement

The Israeli Prime Minister's Office announced that there has been "no change" in Israel's position rejecting negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, according to Jerusalem radio.

Pan-Arab Command Meeting

Libya's Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud arrived in Damascus on 20 March for a meeting on the establishment of "strategic Arab unity" between Libya, Algeria, Syria, and the PDRY, according to JANA. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam later held a quadripartite meeting with the Libyan, Algerian, and PDRY delegations, Damascus radio reported. The Algerian and PDRY foreign ministers attended the meeting, the radio noted.

DRA-Pakistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry demanded an immediate end to persistent aggression by the Pakistani Army and Pakistan's arming of "bandits" which infiltrate into Afghanistan, Kabul radio reported. The DRA Foreign Ministry noted that Pakistan will be responsible for the "dangerous consequences" if the aggression and armed interference continue. Pakistani charges of DRA bombings in the Arandu area were denied as "groundless allegations," the radio stated.

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AL-QABAS Interviews Fatah CC Member Al-Za'nun

GF201800 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 19 Mar 85 p 23

[Report on interview with Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Fatah Central Committee member and PNC deputy chairman — place, date not given]

[Excerpt] Salim al-Za'nun, alias Abu al-Adib, Fatah Central Committee member and PNC deputy chairman, denounced what was said by 'Imad Shaqur, Yasir 'Arafat's adviser for Israeli affairs, alleging that he based his meeting with Israeli officials in Bonn on the resolutions of the PNC's 17th session. In an interview with *AL-QABAS*, he pointed out that these resolutions allow for meetings with non-Zionist Jews who recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. Abu al-Adib hailed the stand taken by Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, who withdrew from the Konrad Adenaur seminar protesting against Shaqur's meeting with Israelis.

Abu al-Adib said Shaqur is personally responsible for what he did. He pointed out that UN Resolution 242 is dead and is legally invalid as it was issued more than 15 years ago. He stressed that the Egyptian president's visit to Washington has proved to all the total partiality of the United States toward Israel. He warned Dr George Habash of the "trap" that might be set for him within the framework of the "broad Palestinian front" and reminded him of what happened to Abu Salih, one of his group's members, and what is currently happening to Qadri. He called on Syria to cooperate with the Palestinians and put an end to differences in order to foil the Phalangists' plots in Lebanon which are aimed at dividing it and the Arab homeland into sectarian entities. Abu al-Adib praised the cooperation achieved with the Syrian delegation during the recent Arab parliamentary meeting.

Al-Za'nun on Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement

GF211040 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Dubayy, 21 Mar (WAKH) — PNC Deputy Speaker Salim al-Za'nun has denied that Jordan asked the PLO to abolish the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement when two Palestinian officials demanded the amendment of some articles related to self-determination by the Palestinian people and the joint delegation. In an interview with the *AL-WAHDAH* newspaper, the first part of which was published today, Al-Za'nun said that when Salah Khalaf and Faruq Qaddumi visited Jordan recently and met with King Husayn, they demanded an amendment to two articles in the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement over which there was a dispute in explanation and that Jordan suggested that these two articles be clarified, but Abu Iyad and Abu al-Lutf [Khalaf and Qaddumi] demanded that they should be amended. This situation has not yet been settled, but the two sides agree completely to the essence and these formalities will be solved shortly.

Al-Za'nun reviewed the circumstances which preceded the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement and followed the convening of the PNC session in Amman and said: The Jordanian monarch suggested ideas to the PNC regarding the common move and the PNC assigned the new PLO Executive Committee, which in turn formed a committee for dialogue with Jordan with the participation of the PNC chairmanship. He pointed out that according to its basic discipline and regulations, the committee was ordered not to approach certain matters, such as the Camp David accords, the Reagan initiative, and UN Resolution 242, and was instructed to act within the framework of the resolutions of the Fes summit, the United Nations, and the ICO and the Soviet initiative which represent a basis for dialogue. He described the process of the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, before reaching the recent agreement, as very difficult.

He said that the two parties disagreed on three points — the introductory verses of the plan; self-determination; and the formation of the joint delegation. The PLO insisted that there should be a joint Arab delegation while Jordan preferred a bilateral Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, but later the dispute over this point was settled.

He said that there was a dispute in the Fatah Central Committee over an article related to self-determination. Some members had their reservations on this article, but this point was clarified and was later agreed upon with Jordan.

He said that the objective of his visit to the UAE is to deliver a message from Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, dealing with the joint Palestinian working plan, and to hold consultations on what should be done with regard to the dangerous escalation of the Iraqi-Iranian war. He said that he will brief officials in the UAE about the efforts which will be exerted by Yasir 'Arafat as a member of the Islamic Good Offices Committee assigned to settle the Iraqi-Iranian conflict.

DFLP, PCP Reject Dialogue on Accord With Jordan

JN201346 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and Sulayman al-Najjad, member of the Palestinian Communist Party [PCP] Political Bureau, held a joint press conference in Damascus today. During the conference, both officials asserted the rejection of the DFLP and the Communist Party of the call by leadership of the PLO and Fatah to the Democratic Alliance to enter dialogue on the basis of amending the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, and not on the basis of canceling that agreement. 'Abd Rabbuh and Al-Najjad asserted that the trend toward relinquishment by the official leadership of the PLO and Fatah is not accidental, but an integrated trend that fell under the effects of capitulatory calls.

Palestinians Claim Bus Explosion Near Tel Aviv

JN201746 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A Palestinian miltiary spokesman has stated the following:

One of our groups operating inside the occupied homeland, the main struggle arena, this morning set off a high-explosive charge at a bus stop outside Tel Aviv. Several Zionists were killed or wounded. Zionist enemy radio admitted the operation and claimed that an explosive charge placed under a back seat of a

bus injured three Zionists. The radio said enemy forces detained a large number of Palestinian citizens on the pretext of complicity in the operation.

Voice of PLO on Operations in Southern Lebanon

JN201750 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The heroes of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces continue to escalate their armed operations against personnel and equipment of the Zionist occupation forces and the militas of the so-called army of southern Lebanon [ASL] in occupied southern Lebanon, inflicting heavy losses in lives and equipment.

The heroes of the joint forces last night attacked a Zionist military position in the town of Jwayya in occupied southern Lebanon with katyushas. The Zionist enemy position was heavily damaged and its occupants were killed or wounded.

The heroes of the joint forces last night also used katyushas to shell a Zionist observation post near Al-Nabatiyah, completely destroying the Zionist post and killing or wounding several Zionist soldiers.

Also yesterday, the heroes of the joint forces attacked with automatic weapons and rockets an ASL military patrol near Al-Nabatiyah in occupied southern Lebanon.

A jeep was destroyed and another was damaged and all the agent elements in them were killed or wounded.

The Zionist military spokesman admitted all three operations, but did not disclose his losses or those of his agents.

He said his forces and elements of the agent militias immediately mounted large-scale search, combing, and arrest campaigns. However, all this was in vain.

GULF AFFAIRS

Warplanes Launch Attack Against Khark Island

LD201733 Kuwait KUNA in English 1641 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 20 (KUNA) — Iran's main oil supply Khark Island terminal was attacked Wednesday by apparently Iraqi warplanes as six people were killed on board an Iranian supply vessel in a seemingly Iraqi missile attack, shipping sources said.

The sources said the terminal in the northern part of the Gulf did not sustain any damage as a result of the morning air raid, not yet announced by Iraq. The sources noted that two supertankers were loading crude oil at the time of the raid.

The missile attack started blaze aboard the supply vessel named *Bargir*, the sources said but did not give further details except that six people were killed.

Iraq usually announced its attacks on foreign ships serving Khark and other Iranian ports.

KHALEEJ TIMES Views GCC Meeting on Gulf War

GF201110 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 6

[Editorial: "AGCC: Another Bid for Peace"]

[Text] The AGCC foreign ministers, ending three days of talks in Riyadh yesterday, fully captured the concern being felt throughout the Gulf over the escalation in the Iran-Iraq conflict. In a statement issued after their talks, the ministers expressed the AGCC states' sorrow over the destruction being caused by the war and said that they would consider the ministerial council in permanent session to discuss any new developments.

It was also announced that the AGCC was ready to send out delegations to both Baghdad and Tehran in an effort to stop further bloodshed. It was agreed that, as a first step, Kuwait's foreign minister would go to Baghdad for talks with the Iraqi leadership. The ministerial council reiterated the importance of preserving Arab territorial integrity and urged sister Arab states to cooperate in working for a just solution to the Gulf war. It specifically asked Iran to refrain from attempting to infiltrate into Iraqi territory. It was earlier announed that the meeting had been in touch with Algeria obviously in an attempt to galvanise Arab support for a peace bid. The Riyadh meeting has brought the AGCC back to centre-stage and showed once again that the council is prepared to shoulder its responsibility in settling the conflict between the two Islamic countries.

While the meeting was being held, there was the sudden joint visit of King Husayn and President Mubarak to Baghdad where they met President Saddam Husayn. Although Baghdad and Cairo have not yet resumed diplomatic relations, the visit was apparently meant to demonstrate solidarity with President Saddam in the present critical phase.

The Riyadh meeting's emphasis on cooperation among Arab states should also be seen in this context of Arab support for Iraq. The AGCC specifically praised the Iraqi response to UN resolutions and other initiatives aimed at ending the war and called upon Iran to respond favourably to international efforts for a peaceful settlement.

It is to be prayed that the AGCC's appeal will be heard in Tehran and that the Iranian regime will welcome any Gulf and Arab move to bring peace to the region. The immediate portents ae not good, but one must hope against hope.

KUWAIT

Foreign Minister To Visit Algeria To Discuss Gulf War

LD201521 Kuwait KUNA in English 1218 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Kuwait, March 20 (KUNA) — Kuwait Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad flies to Algeria next Saturday [23 March] within the framework of efforts exerted by the GCC to end the Iran-Iraq war. Official Kuwait sources told KUNA that Shaykh Sabah will hold talks with Algerian officials on possible steps to terminate the four-and-half-years old conflict between the two Moslem neighbors.

Shaykh Sabah, chairman of the current GCC ministerial council open session, flew to Baghdad yesterday and held talks with Iraqi officials with the aim of putting an end to the Gulf conflict. The deputy premier said last night upon returning to Kuwait that Iraqi officials assured him of Baghdad's full readiness to start immediate peace talks with Iran.

A communique issued by the six GCC foreign ministers in Riyadh yesterday expressed readiness to dispatch an envoy to Tehran as part of the group's concern with restoring peace in the region. Another GCC peace initiative launched two years back failed to persuade the Iranians to cease hostilities and sit at the negotiating table.

Algeria, which maintains good ties with both Baghdad and Tehran, had launched similar mediation efforts of its own but did not succeed in bringing the fighting to an end.

Shaykh Sabah said today he will proceed to Tunisia following his talks in Algiers to attend the ministerial council of the Arab League scheduled to start Monday [25 March]. The council's ordinary session will discuss a variety of issues including the possibility of convening the long-postponed Arab summit.

ARAB TIMES: Iraq's Victory Pleases Arab World

GF201146 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 19 Mar 85 p 6

["Opinion" column by Ahmad al-Jarallah: "What Punishment Now for Iran's Extremists?"]

[Text] People thought the Iraqi information minister was exaggerating when he announced that Iraqi forces killed 15,000 Iranians, yet events have proved the Iraqi minister was being

conservative in his figures, because far more Iranians were killed than he announced.

Iraq is distraught over the death of its sons, and is also saddened by the deaths of thousands of Muslim Iranian soldiers. They were the victims of the ambitions of Iranian politicians who believed they were winning glory by encroaching on the territories of others.

What punishment will face these extremists in the Iranian leadership who built their glory and domination on the blood of young Iranians? What punishment will they face when the Iranian people discover they were forced to enter the war just to settle accounts for past hatreds?

Iraq's victory has pleased the Arab world which had been frustrated by the support of some other Arabs for Iran against Iraq. It was as if Iran wanted only to remove Saddam Husayn. Instead, Iran wanted to take Baghdad and then the Arab Gulf and Arab Peninsula as well as those very supporters who are in part of the area the Iranian extremists also seek to occupy.

Iraq's victory pleases the Arabs, including the people of some Arab governments supporting the Iranian extremists who dispose of their people like firewood in this war. Such extremists would find it just as easy to burn the people of the countries they occupy. There is no doubt that the Iraqi political leadership is proud of the achievements of its troops and of the pleasure victory has brought to the Arab world, especially to the Gulf and Arab Peninsula.

SAUDI ARABIA

King Fahd Addresses Cabinet Session on Budget

LD202323 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Speech by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz at extraordinary session of Council of Ministers held in Riyadh 20 March to approve state budget for 1985-86 fiscal year — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother citizens: It gives me great pleasure to talk to you on the occasion of the publication of the fourth development plan and the approval of the budget for the new fiscal year 1985-86, the first year of the new plan.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in its economic policy has relied with God's guidance on economic freedom and pursued a policy of a free market and open economy, where there is scope for talent and personal initiatives to achieve interests within the context of the public good; and where prices, wages and the other forces of the market are the basis for managing production factors. Therefore, the Kingdom has encouraged and backed the private sector, resulting in the construction of more than 1,500 working factories. Moreover, dozens of joint ventures have been created with international partners.

With the development of the Kingdom's economy and its increased strength, the Kingdom has become one of the leading states in international trade as its imports of goods and services during the period in question have reached about 1.8 billion riyals from all over the world. The Kingdom has allowed many countries to participate in the implementation of development projects and has allowed their citizens to embark on constructive and fruitful work in our country, resulting in a truly international participation in a fine civilized effort. Therefore, we enter the coming stage, God permitting, with determination and trust despite the collapse in the oil market and the consequent decline in revenues.

Our economic policy is essentially based on reducing our reliance on crude oil exports as the sole source of income for the country. What is happening in the oil market, dear brothers, is practical proof of the wisdom of the objectives which we have defined in all development plans and the wisdom of the policies which we have pursued in the implementation of social and economic objectives — first and foremost, reducing reliance on the export of crude oil through the appropriate investments in industry, agriculture and mining. The government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with confidence and vision, invested its resources at a time when the international oil market was absorbing the biggest quantity of production at suitable prices, transforming its revenue into an unprecedented development effort, whose fruits we are now reaping, and we thank God for this.

Thus it is natural for us to adjust in a constructive manner to the new conditions. We made all these efforts, as I have said, when production increased to about 10 million barrels per day and revenues increased to more than 368 billion riyals per year. And since our production at present does not exceed 4 million barrels per day, wisdom dictates that we adjust to the current levels until useful production is produced by other sectors, God willing.

Fortunately, the change in the oil market took place at a time when most of our major projects had been completed and the remaining ones were nearing completion, which helped us to emphasize competence and sound management, bringing great benefits to the citizen, God willing. This does not mean that what our country is seeing now is the final picture of the future. Many things that we would like to see our country enjoy, God willing, are ahead of us. But it does mean that we shall not be under pressure of time or as regards the scale of projects.

There are at present no fewer than 2,000 projects being implemented in various parts of the country, including health and educational projects, roads, the beautification of cities and other civil projects whose implementation will achieve further steps toward growth and prosperity, God willing.

Dear brothers, we are an Islamic country, loyal to God, praise be to him. All we need do is be sincere to Him. All the success that we have achieved in the past is a proof of his guidance.

I am confident that a country such as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a people such as its people, who were able to achieve what they have achieved, are worthy of being entrusted to accomplish what has been planned for the coming stage, God willing. Finally, may God's peace and blessing be upon you.

New State Budget

LD202113 Riyadh SPA in English 2005 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, March 20 SPA — Saudi Arabia's total government revenues for the new fiscal year (1405/06) will amount to SR 200 billion while total expenditures stand at SR 200 billion, a brief summary of the state budget issued by the Ministry of Finance and National Economy said here tonight.

It said during the past fiscal year (1404/1405), the actual revenues amounted to SR 166,882 million, nearly 22 per cent less than budget estimate.

On the other hand, total actual expenditures amounted to SR 212,880 million at the end of fiscal year 1404/05, which is 18 per cent lower than budget estimate. However, this is only four per cent less than previous fiscal year expenditures.

Referring to local economy during the past fiscal year (1404/05), the estimated rate of growth of the non-oil private sector in real gross domestic product has increased during 1404/1405 by 4.3 per cent in constant prices. The rate of inflation during the last fiscal year was down by 0.8 per cent and cost of living decreased by 1.5 per cent. The major reason behind this price downward-trend was, among other things, the increase in inventories from previous years, the completion of infrastructure projects, the increased and diversified local production, and healthy competition between producers and importers. All these factors also helped to reduce profit margins which were high during the period of exceptional growth witnessed in Saudi Arabia at the time of implementation of the infrastructure projects.

Total value of imports of goods and commodities during fiscal year 1404/05 amounted to nearly SR 119,000 million, about 11 per cent less than the previous year. This decline is due to the increase in local inventories of goods, lower price of imports and freight in general, the statement said.

The growth in domestic liquidity during the last fiscal year was 8.5 per cent, while the riyal attained a remarkable appreciation of its value against all major currencies, except the U.S. dollar, the statement said.

Referring to expenditures of the new fiscal year 1405/06 budget, the statement said administrative expenditures have been cut by 13 per cent as compared to previous year, while allocations for development program and projects have been increased in the new budget from 46 per cent in the previous year to 55 per cent.

The new budget includes the following allocations for the major sectors of the economy:

1. Education sector SR 23,950 million
2. Social development sector SR 14,830 million
3. Infrastructure sector SR 6,670 million
4. Municipal services sector SR 11,890 million
5. Transport and communication SR 16,500 million
6. Economic resources development sector SR 14,434 million
7. Defense and security sector SR 64,085 million
8. Allocations for domestic specialized credit institutions SR 9,300 million.

This is in addition to their own resources estimated at about SR 4,500 million. The total cost of the new development projects, which will be launched as from the beginning of the new fiscal year is SR 45,470 million.

Budget Statement Issued

LD210028 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text of statement issued by Ministry of Finance and National Economy on Saudi state budget for fiscal year 1985-1986, on 20 March — read by announcer]

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Finance and National Economy is pleased to present a summary of the state budget for the 1985-1986 fiscal year, which will come into force as of 22 March 1985. The following are the most important points in the statements pertaining to the new budget:

1. In accordance with the royal decree approving this budget, the state revenue for the new fiscal year has been estimated at 200 billion riyals while the allocation for expenditure has been estimated at 200 billion.

2. Before clarifying the features of the new budget, it is necessary to review briefly the results of the implementation of the 1984-1985 fiscal year:

A. Revenue: The state's revenue as approved for the past budget was estimated at 214.1 billion riyals. What was actually received was 166,882,000,000 riyals or approximately 22 percent less than was estimated. This was due to the drop in oil exports compared with the estimation at the time of the preparation of that budget.

B. Expenditure: The actual expenditure by the end of the 1984-1985 fiscal year is 212.88 billion riyals, which is about 18 percent less than the allocations for expenditure in the budget. However, it is only 4 percent less than the expenditure for the preceding year.

During the past fiscal year, various government institutions cooperated in rationalizing actual expenditure and particularly in cutting down administrative expenditure. The differences between expenditure and revenue was covered by transfers from the general state reserve in accordance with the decree pertaining to the general budget. The decree approving the budget for the 1984-1985 fiscal year permitted the transfer of 45.9 billion riyals from the general reserve of the state.

With regard to the loans offered to the citizens through the specialized loan funds for the construction of houses and agricultural and estate projects, the loans paid out during the 1984-1985 year totalled 13 billion riyals. Thus the overall value of the loans granted by the specialized funds since their establishment was over 148.6 million riyals.

C. The state of the domestic economy: The ministry estimates that the real local produce of the private sector, other than oil, grew in the 1984-1985 fiscal year based on fixed prices.

This is considered a good achievement within the framework of the general conditions, which are characterized by stability following the period of increasing growth recorded by the antional economy in the previous years.

One of the most prominent results was the continued drop in the rate of inflation during the past fiscal year, of 18 percent, and the drop in the cost of living by 1.5 percent.

With regard to foreign trade, the value of goods and commodities imported during the 1984-1985 fiscal year has been estimated at about 119 billion riyals, which is 11 percent less than the value of the imports in the preceding year.

With regard to the cash flow for the 1984-1985 fiscal year, this has amounted to 8.5 percent. Furthermore, the rate of exchange of the riyal in regard to all main currencies other than the dollar has shown a considerable increase. The improvement of the riyal's rate of exchange in respect to other currencies has led to a drop in the price of goods and commodities imported by the Kingdom which has had the effect of lowering prices in the kingdom.

3. Expenditure in the new 1985-1986 fiscal year: Public expenditure in the new budget has been cut in favor of growth projects and programs. Public consumer expenditure has been cut by 13 percent of the allocations of the previous fiscal year. As for growth expenditure on programs and projects, allocations for this has been increased from 46 percent of the total expenditure of the general budget for the past year to 55 percent of the total expenditure of the general budget for the new fiscal year.

To counterbalance the expenditure in the new budget, revenue from customs, port services, and some other fees and duties have been increased and thus it was possible to balance revenue with expenditure without any need to resort to the general reserve of the state.

With regard to the allocation of expenditure for the various government sectors, the following may be pointed out:

1. The education sector: This sector covers the Ministry of Education, the General Administration for Female Education, universities, institutes, and the various training centers. Allocations for this sector in the new budget for the 1985-1986 fiscal year amount to 23.95 billion riyals.

2. The social development sector: This sector covers the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social affairs, the General Administration for the Care of Youth, and the Ministry of Information. Allocations for this sector in the 1985-1986 fiscal year amount to 14.83 billion riyals.

3. The basic supplies sector: This sector covers the utilities for supplies to basic industries at Al-Jubayl, and Yanbu', the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, the pilgrimage projects, the Meteorological Department, the Protection of the Environment Department, the General Establishment for Standards and Measures. Allocations for this sector in the 1985-1986 fiscal year amount to 6.87 billion riyals.

4. The municipal services sector: Allocations for the municipalities and water services in the 1985-1986 fiscal year amount to 11.89 billion riyals.

5. The transport and communications sector: This sector comprises the Communications Ministry, the General Establishment for Railways, the ITT Ministry, the General Administration for Civil Aviation, and the General Establishment for Ports. Allocations for this sector in the new budget for the 1985-1986 year 16.5 billion riyals.

6. The development of economic resources sector: This sector comprises the Ministry of Agriculture and Water, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Wealth, the Ministry of Industry and Electricity, the Ministry of Commerce, the General Establishment for Grain Silos and Flour Mills, and the General Establishment for Water Desalination. Allocations for this sector in the new budget for the 1985-1986 fiscal year amount to 14,434,000,000 riyals.

7. The military and security sectors: Total allocations for these two sectors for the 1985-1986 financial year amounts to 64,085,000,000 riyals.

8. Local assistance: Local assistance, agricultrual assistance, assistance to electricity companies, social security assistance, assistance to sports clubs and private schools, imported foodstuffs and animal feed assistance, assistance for the purchase of local wheat totals 8,344,000,000 riyals in the 1985-1986 financial year.

9. Allocations for internal lending: Lending funds have been allocated 9.3 billion riyals. This is in addition to their own sources which are estimated at about 4.5 billion riyals. These allocations will help make available medium- and long-term loans in support of various agricultural, real estate, and industrial activities in the private sector in order to encourage continued investing and create a productive national capital.

It is worth mentioning that during the new financial year work will begin on the implementation of new development projects and programs at a total cost of 45.47 billion riyals. The ministry hopes that this budget, like the ones before it, will constitute a clear and integrated program for the creation of a modern national economy in which the facilities of the infrastructure and the productive base will be allied with the available human and material capabilities and mix with the ancient civilized heritage in order to achieve the objectives and broad hopes for all the citizens to which his majesty the king and his crown prince pay every attention. God is behind every good intention.

Omani Foreign Ministry Official Leaves Riyadh

LD201841 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Riyadh, 20 Mar (SPA) — The Omani minister of state for foreign affairs left Riyadh this afternoon after participating in the works of the GCC ministrial council that ended yesterday. He was seen off by Saudi Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Omani ambassador to the Kingdom Ahmad al-Marhun, and a number of officials.

UAE

Iran Changes Flight Schedules to Al-Shariqah

GF201020 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Al-Shariqah, 20 Mar (QNA) — It was announced here today that Iranian civil aviation has amended the times of its flights from UAE airports to Iranian airports as of this evening.

AL-KHALIJ newspaper today said that a decision has been made to amend the arrival and departure times of Iranian airliners by canceling night flights altogether. The newspaper quoted sources at Al-Shariqah airport as saying that Iranian civil aviation has informed the airport that its planes which arrive in Al-Shariqah during the daytime and which are scheduled to leave for Iran in the evening will remain at Al-Shariqah airport and will take off the following morning. This amendment applies also to the regular weekly flight between Al-Shariqah and Tehran on Thursday.

In implementation of this decision, an Iranian civil aviation airliner arrived in Dubayy airport yesterday evening and left the airport for Tehran this morning. Another airliner was supposed to arrive in Dubayy from Bandar 'Abbas yesterday evening, but the airport was informed that the flight was postponed until this afternoon.

Deputy Premier on Escalation of Iraq-Iran War

GF201530 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 6

[Text] Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, the deputy prime minister, has announced the UAE's regret and deep anxiety regarding the dangerous escalation in the Iraq-Iran war.

In a statement to *AL-ITTIHAD* following the cabinet meeting yesterday, he called on the world community to shoulder its responsibility and do its duty in exerting all efforts to put an end to this war which he described as constituting a serious threat not only to the security of the region, but also to world security and peace.

He also expressed his astonishment regarding the negative spectator stand of the world community vis-a-vis the escalation in the Iraq-Iran war, despite the serious challenge to stability and the great loss to humanity that this escalation represents.

He appealed to both parties to stop fighting and work toward settling their disputes by negotiation. He referred to the exorbitant losses that the war has caused to the human, and economic capabilities of the two neighbor Muslim countries, emphasizing that the war between them is a loss to the Islamic nation and the two Islamic peoples.

He said: In the continuation of this war, we witness an attrition of the energies and capabilities of the Islamic nation, and a crime that causes the daily loss of hundreds of innocent Muslim lives.

Businessmen See No Change in Trade With Iran

GF201224 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 20 Mar 85 p 13

[Text] Although escalation of the Gulf conflict has so far had no significant impact on the movement of goods from the northern emirates to Iran, traders dealing with that country are keeping their fingers crossed and scaling down their plans for the future.

Business sources in Dubai said there has been no let-up either in re-exports to the Islamic Republic or in barter trade with its coastal provinces as a result of the new crisis on the war front.

Local businessmen who were once nearly crippled by the sudden downturn in trade with Iran are taking no chances, however. Even their modest plans for long-term business links with Iran, drawn up in the wake of a recent revival in trade, are now under review.

Scores of Iranian businessmen continue to arrive daily on transit visas availing themselves of a recent Iranian Government allowance of $2,000 worth of goods. Iran Air operated two additional flights from Dubai to Shiraz on Monday to cope with the rush of businessmen in transit and those Iranians stopping over on their way home from Europe to make purchases from the local market.

Iran Air also operated two cargo flights to Shiraz yesterday to help clear a substantial part of the backlog of unaccompanied baggage booked by businessmen. The cargo flights were in addition to a scheduled flight to Tehran which was fully booked.

Iran Air officials said last evening that all flights into and out of Iran to Dubai were operating although they were hours behind schedule. However, there was considerable confusion at the airline's office and at the airport in the evening with conflicting reports about disruption of air services. Several Iran-bound passengers decided to spend the night at the airport in the hope of catching the first available flight.

On the shipping front, *Al Faris III*, a chartered vessel operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines, left Al-Shariqah last night for Bandar 'Abbas with 67 passengers and cargo. In view of the traditional Nowruz festival rush, the vessel has been supplementing *Iran Hormuz*, an Iranian ship that operates a regular service to Bandar 'Abbas. *Iran Hormuz* is due in Al-Shariqah tomorrow and will return on Sunday.

Enquiries at the creek front in Dubai and Al-Shariqah also showed that the sudden spurt in bombing had failed to deter those ferrying goods across to Iran. Wholesalers and agents for consumer products however said the last few days had seen a slight decline in the offtake of goods by small traders doing regular business with Iran.

Market sources interpreted this as a sign of caution by local traders who are anxious to avoid excessive involvement in Iran trade.

Importers are expected to watch the situation closely before placing fresh orders in anticipation of continued re-exports to Iran.

U.S. Commander Ends Visit, Departs for Oman

GF211056 Doha QNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Dubayy, 21 Mar (QNA) — Lieutenant General Robert Kingston, commander of the U.S. Central Command, left Dubayy for Muscat this morning after concluding a 3-day visit to the UAE within a tour of a number of the region's states.

During the visit the U.S. Lt Gen Kingston met with senior military and civilian officials in the country.

PNC Deputy Speaker Meets State Minister

JN201742 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Salim al-Za'nun, PNC deputy speaker and member of the Fatah Central Committee, met in Dubayy today with Shaykh Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs.

Al-Za'nun said later that the meeting revolved around an exchange of viewponts on recent developments in the Arab homeland and the Middle East in light of the serious escalation of the Iraq-Iran war and the necessity to exert all efforts to stop it.

Tunisian Information Minister Arrives for Visit

GF201602 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Abu Dhabi, March 20 (WAKH) — Tunisian Information Minister Abderrazak Kefi arrived here today from Bahrain on a short visit to the UAE. He was received by UAE Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Ahmad ibn Hamad.

Upon arrival Mr Kefi pointed to bilateral relations between the two countries and said they had reached excellent levels, consolidated by the visit by UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan to Tunisia. "Projects between UAE and Tunisia jointly benefit both countries," he said.

The strong will of both countries leaders supports the hope of achieving further benefit for the two countries peoples, he added.

PDRY

Chairman Receives GDR Party Official 20 Mar

GF201338 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, received this morning Comrade Krenz, deputy secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

During the meeting, they discussed a number of issues pertaining to the friendship and cooperation between the two parties and the two friendly countries and means of developing and enhancing them in all fields.

During this meeting, Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad expressed satisfaction at the results of the discussions conducted by Comrade Krenz with state and party officials. He noted the determination of the PDRY and the YSP to continue developing PDRY-GDR friendship relations to serve the joint principles and goals which the two parties and the two countries are struggling to acquire through the principles of scientific socialism and international proletarianism.

The meeting was attended by Brother Mahmud al-Najashi, member and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee; Brother 'Abd al-Wasim al-Shururi, PDRY ambassador to the GDR; and Comrade Guenther Neumann, GDR ambassador in Aden.

Joint Talks Conclude

GF201600 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The PDRY-GDR official and party talks concluded in Aden this afternoon. The PDRY delegation was led by Brother Mahmud al-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the YSP Central Committee.

The GDR official party delegation was led by Comrade Krenz, deputy secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

During the discussions which were held in friendly atmosphere, the two sides exchanged views on regional and international situations. The views were identical regarding all issues discussed.

They also discussed joint cooperation between the YSP and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and between the governments of the two friendly countries. They affirmed the necessity of continuing the struggle relations between the YSP and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and between the governments of the two friendly countries.

The meeting was attended on the Yemeni side by Brother 'Abd al-Wasim al-Shururi, PDRY ambassador to the GDR, and a number of brothers at the secretariat of the YSP Central Committee and the Foreign Ministry, and on the GDR side by Comrade Guenther Neumann, GDR ambassador in Aden.

Al-Dali Receives Message From Iraqi Counterpart

GF201742 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, received a message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, dealing with latest developments in the war between Iraq and Iran.

The message was delivered to Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah, deputy foreign minister, during his meeting with Taha al-'Aziz Hasan, Iraqi ambassador in Aden.

Iranian Assistant Foreign Minister Departs Aden

GF201746 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Mohammad 'Arab, Iranian assistant foreign minister, left Aden this evening after a visit to our country lasting several days. during his visit, he held talks with a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry.

He delivered a written message to Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, from Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He was seen off by Brother Muhammad 'Ali 'Imayah deputy foreign minister, and Hoseyn Amin, Iranian ambassador in Aden.

YAR

Foreign Minister Returns From Libya 20 Mar

GF201342 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, returned to Sanaa today following a 2-day visit to Libya.

During his visit he delivered a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of 1 September Revolution, on recent developments on the Arab and Islamic arenas.

Talks Held With Algerian FLN Delegation

GF201930 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The first session of talks was held at the Standing Committee today between the Yemeni side, led by Dr Ahmad al-Asbahi, secretary of the Standing Committee, and the Algerian side, led by Brother Bachir Khaldoun, member of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee.

In his speech delivered at the beginning of the session, Brother al-Asbahi welcomed the head and members of the Algerian delegation, expressing his joy for this meeting which is aimed at bolstering the fraternal relations between the two countries on official and popular levels.

Brother Bachir Khaldoun, head of the Algerian delegation, addressed and reviewed the FLN's experience and struggle phases of its various democratic and development qualities and the national and pan-Arab duty which the FLN and the Algerian people are struggling to achieve to satisfy the aspirations and ambitions of the fraternal Algerian people.

During the session they discussed the means to deepen the cooperation between the General People's Congress and the FLN in a manner that serves joint pan-Arab goals and the efforts for achieving Arab solidarity in order to serve the goals of our Arab nation, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

The Yemeni and the Algerian sides resumed their this afternoon to complete the issues that were discussed during the morning session.

Egypt To Attend Afro-Arab Conference in Libya

NC210620 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2330 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Egypt has decided to participate in the Afro-Arab Cooperation Conference to be held in Libya. Egypt has received an OAU invitation to attend the conference.

'Ali on Visit to Romania, U.S. Assistance

PM201331 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 18 Mar 85 p 16

[Interview with Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo — date not given]

[Excerpts] **Al-Sa'id**: At the end of last month it was revealed that Egypt and Israel are continuing to carry out contacts through a Romanian mediation. Tomorrow you are leaving for Romania. How far can you rely on Romania as an intermediary between the Arabs and Israel given that it is the only East European country that maintains ties with Israel?

'Ali: I would like first to clarify a point — that our contacts with Israel are continuing and need no mediation. The exchange of views takes place between us through direct contacts and without intermediaries, where giving impetus to the peace process is concerned. This was what happened when Ambassador 'Abd al-Halim Badawi carried a message from President Mubarak to Israel and when General Abraham Tamir brought a message to Egypt from Shim'on Peres. This exchange of views is no secret. This needs no mediation. Contacts between us and Israel are extremely necessary to give impetus to the peace process.

Al-Sa'id: But what about Romania acting as an intermediary between the Arabs and Israel, particularly in view of the fact that Romania was one of the originators of the idea of an international peace conference and thus can play an effective role in persuading Israel to accept it?

'Ali: The idea of giving momentum to the peace process in general, and negotiations in particular, regardless of what form these negotiations take, whether within the framework of an international conference or other framework, certainly needs some persuasion as far as Israel is concerned. President Mubarak, with this in mind, made his trip to the United States and some European countries, with the aim of giving a boost to peace efforts in the area and giving support to the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, particularly in the United States, which is our partner in the peace process. We are partners with it in this process. Therefore, in accordance with our responsibility as an Arab country toward the number one Arab problem, the Palestinian problem, we launched this intensive Egyptian move.

Al-Sa'id: Given this situation what role can Romania play?

'Ali: With the ties it has with Israel, Romania can certainly play an important role encouraging Israel and urging it to participate in the efforts for a settlement in the area.

Al-Sa'id: Regarding foreign aid, there are certain doubts about the United States maintaining the same level of aid for Egypt this year and in 1986, to say nothing about increasing it. Instead of Egypt obtaining more aid, we find that the United States is less generous than in the past, bearing in mind that it has announced a reduction in its budget this year. Could this have grave consequences for Egypt and its economy?

'Ali: I do not think that U.S. aid will be affected or reduced. U.S. foreign aid will remain almost as it is. Hence the economic and military aid for 1986 will be increased. It will also increase this year. What is said to the opposite is not true and out of the question.

Al-Sa'id: You have previously stated that Egypt needs $1 billion in 1986 to face the major problems of Egypt's foreign currency revenues. What if you do not get what you want?

'Ali: Egypt's economy, thank God, is strong and cohesive. We can rely on the rationalization of expenditure. It is also possible, with some rectifications in the economic course, to easily overcome some of the difficulties that might arise; that is, with the help of the aid Egypt receives from Western countries and Japan.

Prime Minister 'Ali Begins Official Visit to Romania

For Romanian and Egyptian media coverage of the visit to Romania by Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, beginning 20 March, see the Romania section of the 21 March Eastern Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Reportage on Visit of Sudanese Vice President

Mubarak Receives Al-Tahir

NC201052 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Sudanese Vice President Rashid al-Tahir this morning. The meeting was also attended by 'Abd al-Rahman Salman, Sudanese ambassador to Cairo. Al-Tahir arrived in Cairo earlier today.

Al-Tahir on Talks

NC201216 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Sudanese Vice President Rashid al-Tahir said, following his meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning, that he conveyed to President Mubarak a written message from Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri. Al-Tahir said that the message comes within the framework of the constant consultation between the two brother presidents to consolidate the integration process between our countries and peoples, and to enable the two countries to shoulder their national responsibilities on the African Continent and in the Arab arena. Al-Tahir said that President Mubarak asked him to convey his greetings to his brother President Numayri and also gave him an oral message on the outcome of his recent visits to a number of European countries, the United States, and Iraq.

Speaking about the situation in Sudan, the Sudanese vice president affirmed that it is completely stable despite the hostile propaganda disseminating its poison in some newspapers and information media.

Concluding his statement, Al-Tahir pointed out that President Mubarak is fully aware of the outcome of the discussions held between President Numayri and U.S. Vice President George Bush in Khartoum at the beginning of this month.

Al-Tahir Departs Cairo

NC201736 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Sudanese Vice President Rashid al-Tahir left Cairo this afternoon at the end of a visit to Egypt of several hours, during which he conveyed a message from President Ja'far Numayri to President Husni Mubarak.

He was seen off at the airport by Dr Mustafa Kamal Hilmi, deputy prime minister and minister of higher education and scientific research.

Mubarak Receives Niger Justice Minister

NC201057 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Niger Justice Minister Allele Habibou in Al-'Urubah Palace this morning. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Niger ambassador to Cairo were also present.

After the meeting, the Niger justice minister said he handed President Mubarak a note from Niger President Seyni Kountche. He added that questions of mutual interest were discussed, and expressed his satisfaction with the conclusions reached at the meeting. He described his visit to Cairo as a great honor.

The Niger justice minister, who arrived in Cairo yesterday, will be visiting for a few days.

Niger Minister Concludes Visit

NC210603 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Niger Justice Minister Allele Habibou left Cairo tonight. During his 2-day visit, he held discussions with Egyptian officials on ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation.

'Abd al-Majid on Mideast Peace, Gulf War

NC210604 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Cairo, 20 Mar (MENA) — Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has declared that in addition to the Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian initiative, supported by Iraq, unannounced Egyptian-Arab communications are underway in an effort to achieve a unified Arab stand and to bring about minimal Arab solidarity, so that a just and comprehensive peace may be established without squandering anything. In an exclusive interview to be published by *AL-AHRAM* tomorrow, the foreign minister says that Egypt is engaged in broad communication with the nonaligned states and UN Security Council members within its efforts to achieve a just solution to the Middle East problem and to end the Gulf war.

'Abd al-Majid adds: The Baghdad tripartite summit held by President Husni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Jordanian King Husayn achieved its goals completely, and we are now acting together to meet the requirements of the coming stage.

The foreign minister goes on to say that Iraq's military position is very sound and reassuring, now that its forces have managed to resist Iran's march, defeating it completely. He adds: Egypt is making a great effort to put a final end to the Gulf war. Egypt calls on Iran to stop the flow of Arab and Muslim blood. Cairo has urgently instructed Egypt's permanent delegation to the United Nations to support and back Iraq's plan for securing a peaceful settlement to the dispute.

Discussing the results of President Husni Mubarak's recent visits to the United States, Britain, France, Germany, and Italy in light of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and Egypt's peace proposals, Dr 'Abd al-Majid says: For the first time, a clear and specific Arab stand exists on a settlement that can provide full credibility to all of the [word indistinct] states.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid continues: We did not expect the U.S. administration to agree to Egypt's proposals immediately. The U.S. administration has neither accepted nor rejected our proposals as yet. It is adopting a wait-and-see attitude, studying the Egyptian proposals and contacting all of the concerned states in the region, including Israel.

The foreign minister goes on: There will be extensive moves on the international and Arab levels in the next 2 months. The EC states will hold a meeting in Brussels at the end of this month to adopt a final stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and Egypt's proposals. The Europeans have accepted these proposals. Moreover, a U.S. envoy is expected to arrive in the Middle East shortly for talks with the region's leaders.

Referring to the next stage, 'Abd al-Majid says: A summit meeting will be held between King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat in Amman in a few hours. A summit is also expected to be held between President Mubarak and King Husayn, for appraisal and study of the entire situation.

On the issue of Palestinian representation in negotiations, Dr 'Abd al-Majid says: Egypt has taken an inalienable and firm stand in support of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. The PLO has the first and last word in choosing the members of the Palestinian delegation and in giving that delegation the necessary authority. He emphasizes that no party has the right to replace the PLO.

On the Arab situation, the foreign minister says: The Baghdad tripartite summit has proven, as Iraqi President Saddam Husayn put it, that the Arab nation is well, despite existing problems and disagreements.

He adds: During these critical times we demand that all our Arab brothers rise above their peripheral differences and produce a united national stand with which to confront the current grave developments.

'Abd al-Majid concludes: Egypt was never absent from the Arab arena. Egypt always stands with the causes of its Arab nation, and any attempts to isolate Egypt will fail.

AL-AKHBAR Sees Mubarak's U.S. Visit as Success

PM20104l Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 Mar 85 p 3

[Sa'id Sunbul article: "Has the Visit Achieved Its Objectives?"]

[Excerpts] Has President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States succeeded? Before answering this question, we must examine the objectives the president sought to achieve during his visit to the U.S. capital. The visit had two principal objectives — first, to break the deadlock in the Middle East problem that has prevailed in recent years and seek to reactivate the peace process; second, to persuade the U.S. Administration to give more economic aid to Egypt.

The question is: How far have these objectives been achieved?

The peace process in the Middle East in recent years reached a stalemate. This fact is no secret to anyone, as wars have continued to flare up in the area and as destruction has continued. Arab kings and presidents tried to break the deadlock when they met at the Fes summit and put forward to the world community an initiative to activate the issue and hold negotiations with Israel through an international confrence. But the Arab initiative failed and remained ink on paper. For his part President Ronald Reagan tried to break the deadlock through an initiative to establish peace in the Middle East by recognizing Israel's right to exist in return for the restoration of the Arab territories Israel occupied during the 1967 war. But this initiative also failed because the Arabs rejected it, and so did Israel.

Some 3 years have passed since President Reagan put forward his initiative, and the situation is in a stalemate and at a standstill. No one is trying to break the deadlock on the problem. The Arabs are more preoccupied with their disputes and their internal problems than with the Middle East problem. Israel is bogged down in Lebanon and in its economic problems. It is not interested in reactivating the issue until it has finished building its settlemetns in the West Bank and Gaza to impose a fait accompli on the Arabs, should they consider negotiating with it. The United States is busy with international problems that make the Middle East problem seem secondary.

For all these reasons, the Middle East problem no longer aroused sufficient interest to prompt people to tackle it, especially as the parties to it have resigned themselves to the stalemate and accepted it.

An event of major importance took place in the Middle East last month when both Jordan and the PLO agreed on a new formula to reactivate the problem by calling for an international conference in which Jordan and the PLO would participate as a single delegation, with the aim of establishing peace in return for the restoration of land and the recognition of the rights of Palestinians to self-determination.

Not many people realize that it took about 2 years to reach this agreement and that Cairo made great efforts to ensure that it would succeed.

President Mubarak saw the agreement as a golden opportunity to reactivate the question of peace and break the deadlock that bedeviled it. He put forward views and ideas regarding the problem. One of the ideas he proposed was to hold direct negotiations between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The Egyptian proposal aroused great interest in various U.S. and international circles, especially as President Mubarak put forward his ideas and proposals shortly before his departure for the United States.

The U.S. media have shown extraordinary interest in the Egyptian proposal and have published many reports and commentaries about it.

President Mubarak was aware that there are many U.S. reservations regarding the proposal, the first being the U.S. Administration's refusal to recognize the PLO or to negotiate with it unless it explicitly recognizes Security Council Resolution 242, which recognizes Israel's right to exist within secure borders.

Another U.S. reservation was that there is a need for direct negotiations between the parties concerned with the problem before the United States can intervene to help.

President Mubarak was aware of these reservations and took them into consideration before leaving for Washington. During his many meetings with U.S. officials, he tried to overcome these reservations and to answer them. Among the things he told President Reagan at the meeting in the White House was: The United States is a superpower and its failure in one specific mission — a reference to the failure of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement — certainly does not mean that it should abandon its major and influential role.

President Mubarak put forward many arguments in support of his advocacy of dialogue between the United States and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation preparatory to beginning peace negotiations between the parties concerned.

The dialogue he proposed does not mean any commitment by the U.S. Administration, rather its aim is to exchange views and build bridges of understanding between the two sides. The PLO is engaged in dialogue with the Soviet Union and with many world countries, and so it is inconceivable for the United States to stand idly by or turn its back on the PLO.

President Mubarak warned that to refuse dialogue with the Palestinians could lead to more violence and terror, which is something that the world community is increasingly suffering from and trying to reduce.

Well-informed sources agree that the proposals which President Mubarak put forward were received with great interest by the

White House, Congress, and public opinion, despite the U.S. reservations regarding dialogue with the Palestinians.

During his stay in Washington, Mubarak did not expect frank and immediate approval of his proposals by the U.S. side.

He was well aware that the U.S. Administration would promise to study the matter, and this was what actually happened. He was also aware that the U.S. Administration would not make a decision before contacting the Israelis and consulting with them. This was what happened, as the Egyptian President was well aware.

Therefore the aim of the visit and the proposals was not to obtain a U.S. commitment to agree with Mubarak's proposals. Rather, the objective was to break the deadlock in the Middle East problem and to seek to spotlight the problem.

The various diplomatic circles agree that the visit has achieved this objective and the problem has become the focus of interest in various quarters after the stalemate. There is renewed talk of the need for a settlement in the Middle East which has become the subject of interest in various quarters.

The second objective: Increasing economic aid.

If breaking the deadlock in the Middle East problem was the first objective of President Mubarak's visit to the United States, the request for more aid was the second objective.

A state department official, commenting on the allegations by some people that the Egyptian president raised the question of peace with the aim of concealing behind it the request for more economic aid, said that such talks is stupid and unfounded.

President Mubarak explained to President Reagan and the U.S. officials the reasons for Egypt's request for increased U.S. aid, and explained to them that Egypt's income of foreign currency in the past year has dropped in view of the drop in oil revenues and in the remittances from Egyptians working abroad, as well as a drop in revenues from tourism and the Suez Canal.

Moreover, the installments and interest on military debts owed to the United States have begun to be a substantial burden on Egypt. A sufficient example of this is the fact that the instalments due to be paid this year total $465 million and might reach $560 million next year, whereas the volume of U.S. economic aid to Egypt is no more than $815 million, which means that the major part of U.S. economic aid goes toward paying military debts and interest. For this reason Egypt has asked that U.S. economic aid be increased and that the installments and interest on military debts be revised.

Once again it must be said that President Mubarak did not expect an immediate response to his request from U.S. officials for a simple reason known to all political and economic circles — that the U.S. Administration cannot commit itself to any amount of aid until this has gone through a chain of bureaucratic procedures and until there has been consultation with the U.S. Congress. Nevertheless, those with inside information affirm that there is an increase in U.S. economic aid to Egypt.

Once again we ask: Has the visit achieved its objectives?

The answer is: Yes.

The visit has succeeded in breaking the deadlock in the Middle East problem, the first objective of the visit; Egypt obtained a promise to increase economic aid, the second objective of the visit.

AL-WAFD Denounces Syria's Al-Asad

PM201515 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 14 Mar 85 p 2

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Qaddus article: "Liberating Damascus First"]

[Text] Wednesday Syrian ruler President Hafiz al-Asad, officially began a third presidential term. I believe that Israel has thereby ensured the occupation of the Golan for years to come. Those not familiar with politics might be surprised at what I say, for President al-Asad's image in the world is that he is the enemy of Israel. I would say, do not be deceived by appearances and beware of being taken in by Damascus radio's "blusterings." The services the Syrian tyrant rendered to Israel cannot be greater. President al-Asad, one of the heroes of 1967 setback, was the one who announced the fall of the Golan 24 hours before it actually fell into the hands of the Zionists and ordered the Syrian Army to withdraw.

His appreciated services can be summed up in several points. The "struggler" Hafiz al-Asad defends Israel on his borders against any attack. He does not allow Palestinian fedayeen action to be launched from Syria, and he does not allow the Syrian people to launch guerilla warfare to liberate the occupied Golan. The only struggle allowed is meaningless speeches, fiery press articles, and "blusterings" in Damascus radio. For many years the Zionist enemy has not been disturbed by a single incident on the borders with Syria, thanks to "struggler" al-Asad.

The Syrian tyrant's actions inside his country render a great service to Israel. Despite the "progressive" slogans, the facts of the situation indicate that the 'Alawite sect to which he belongs, no more than 10 percent of the total population in Syria, rules the remaining 90 percent. Al-Asad's family and his five brothers dominate the 'Alawite community. Freedoms there are nonexistent. The tyrant rules his country with steel and fire. The town of Aleppo revolted against him, but he suppressed it savagely. Then the valiant town of Hamah revolted against him. He destroyed half the town over the heads of its population and some 30,000 people were killed. He has thus outdone all the butchers in barbarism. He sought to separate religion from the state and, contrary to the will of the great majority of the Syrian people, excluded Islam from all aspects of life. Political prisoners in his country, who number thousands, have no rights. Once he committed an ugly massacre against them in Palmyra prison. He disbanded all the nationalist trade unions and subjected them to his authority. The liberation of the Golan certainly will not take place before Damascus is first liberated and the rule of terror is toppled.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iran

Communique No 1,777

JN201724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,777 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our victorious forces continue their heroic confrontation of the aggression. The following is a roundup of activities for yesterday evening and today:

1. Lest the Iranian rulers think that aggression against Iraqi cities may pass without punishment and that their insistence on continuing the war can continue without their being forced to pay a high price, our Air Force planes at 0830 [0530 GMT] launched a series of successful raids on selected targets in the cities of Esfahan, Bushehr, and Kermanshah.

After accurately pounding their targets, our planes returned safely to base, by God's will. We will continue to hammer the heads of the Khomeyniites until they desist from their aggression. It is God who grants success.

2. Enemy losses counted opposite the hero 10th Armored Division positions have reached 4,000 killed.

Thus, confirmed enemy losses in the glorious Hawr battles have reached 27,200 killed.

3. One of our forward units sighted an enemy troop concentration, estimated at 50 in number, opposite its positions in the northern sector of the battlefield. Our unit pounded the enemy troop concentration with all types of weapons, killing or wounding many while the rest fled.

4. An enemy force, using motorboats, tried to approach one of our forward unit's positions in the Maysan sector.

Our unit pounded it with artillery and mortars, sinking the motorboats and killing their occupants.

5. Our forward units dealt several artillery and mortar strikes against enemy targets in the operational sector east of Basra, scoring fierce and effective hits and inflicting losses in life and equipment on the enemy. Several hardware stockpiles were also destroyed.

6. One infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed in the Central sector of the battlefield.

7. The rancorous enemy shelled Basra environs with heavy artillery today. One citizen was martyred and five others were wounded. The enemy also resumed its shelling of Mandali and Khanaqin. As a result of this shelling one house was demolished and two others were damaged in Khanaqin.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 March 1985

Iranian F-5 Downed

JN201732 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1722 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

While carrying out combat patrols over Iranian territory this evening, our aircraft sighted an enemy F-5 plane. The valiant hawks of the air intercepted it, dealt it fierce blows, and shot it down over Iranian territory north of Sanandaj. They returned with their aircraft safe and triumphant.

On this occasion we reiterate our warning contained in the military spokesman's statement issued on 17 March 1985. Iranian airspace is considered an exclusion zone, effective as of 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday.

[Dated] 20 March 1985

Tabriz, Hamadan, Dezful Raided

JN202040 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2032 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our Air Force carried out a series of raids on selected targets in the Iranian cities of Tabriz, Hamadan, and Dezful at 2230 [1930 GMT] today. After accurately pounding their targets, the hawks of the air returned with their aircraft safe and triumphant, promising the Iranian rulers more blows until they stop their aggression against our cities and land and accept complete peace.

[Dated] 20 March 1985

Commander on Hawr Battle

JN210726 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0700 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi military commander has described the recent Hawr al-Hawizah battle as one of the fiercest battles waged during the war. He added that this battle was also tough due to the nature of the battlefield, the size of the units involved, and the vicious Iranian enemy's preparations for over more than 1 year.

Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, commander of the East Tigris operations, said in a press statement published today that this battle will make a big impression on the progress of war because most of the Iranian regime's best units were destroyed and the enemy will need a very long time to rebuild them, especially since some of these units have lost more than 80 percent of their strength.

He pointed out that the enemy managed to gain a foothold inside Iraq's territory during the first stages of its offensive against Hawr al-Hawizah. This situation, he added, tempted the enemy to throw in many other units in order to expand its presence there.

He said that during the 6-day battle the Iraqi units fought in a manner unprecedented in all previous battles and managed to force the enemy to withdraw after destroying its remnants, thus ending with victory.

POW Reveals Israeli Ties

JN210855 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) — A captured Iranian officer has said that it took the Iranians 1 year and 2 months to prepare for their offensive against Hawr al-Hawizah and that most of the reserve weapons Iran bought was used in this offensive.

The officer, who was captured in this abortive offensive, revealed that the Iranian leadership had been censured by Israeli liaison officers about the so-called mistakes made during last year's marshland offensive.

The newspaper *AL-QADISIYAH*, issued here, cites the Iranian prisoner, whom it describes as high ranking, as saying that the Iranians were also directed to overcome what the Israelis called points of weakness in performance and to attack the marshes once again.

On another level, the paper's team to the battle area said that the Iranians who infiltrated west of the Tigris under cover of darkness attacked defenseless civilians, slaughtered children and women, and mutilated their bodies in one of the ugliest crimes. It cites an Iranian prisoner called Reza Farrukhi as saying that Khomeyni had legally condoned looting civilians after killing them and considering their properties, including their clothes, as war booty. The team said they saw dead Iranians wearing clothing and other items plundered from the people of the villages of (Sukhayrijah), (Sayrafah), and Al-Huraybah.

Ahvaz Inhabitants Warned

JN210909 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0849 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] An official spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Despite all the Khomeyniite regime's crimes against purely civilian targets, we abided by refraining from bombing selected targets in the city of Ahvaz. The people of Ahvaz know the reasons which prompted us to avoid bombing special targets in this city. In view of the continuation of war, because one of the requirements for establishing peace is harming the economic links of the Khomeyni regime and since some important economic establishments are located on the outskirts of the city of Ahvaz, for fear of making a mistake or inaccurate hits against these targets by our Air Force or missiles, and so that the inhabitants of Ahvaz might not be harmed in such a case, we call on the people of Ahvaz to leave the city and not to return to it until the economic targets on its outskirts have been destroyed.

We give the people of Ahvaz 72 hours to do this, beginning at 1200 [0900 GMT] today, Thursday 21 March 1985. It is God who grants success.

[Dated] 21 March 1985

Iranian F-4 Shot Down

JN210934 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 21 Mar (INA) -- Iraq has announced that an Iranian F-4 fighter plane was shot down deep inside Iran at 1050 [0750 GMT] today. A military spokesman said that hostile plane was downed while Iraqi fighter planes were carrying out combat missions near the city of Hamadan.

Communique No 1,778

JN211050 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1028 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Communique No 1,778 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 March 1985]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

O Iraqis, these are victory days which you are creating and rejoicing under the courageous, wise leadership of the leader of victory President Saddam Husayn. God has supported you and given you victory because you are defending your cause. As for the enemy, he is destined to suffer humiliation and defeat through the blows dealt by your sons, because he is wrong. Having expelled the enemy from the East Tigris operations sector, your brave Armed Forces continue their attacks from the air, land, and sea. Your sons are giving splendid examples of heroism and courage. As you know, they are not only fighting, but also teaching the world how to fight. In accordance with the correct guidelines of our inspired leader, the forces of the III Army Corps, which are known for their bravery, high morale, and competent field command, carried out two precise, daring attacks on enemy positions on 19 and 21 March as follows:

1. At 0600 on Tuesday, 19 March, units of the heroic 49th Brigade carried out a resolute attack on enemy positions over a wide area and succeeded in destroying the enemy force and mopping up and occupying these positions. The situation settled in favor of our units, which inflicted on the enemy massive losses in personnel and equipment.

2. This morning, 21 March, units of the heroic 601st Brigade and the valiant shock troop companies carried out a lightening attack on enemy positions over a wide area and succeeded in destroying the enemy force in these positions and killing its commanders. The enemy force consisted of the independent regiment of the 17th Division under the command of the slain Sharif Karimi and the enemy 46th Regiment under the command of the slain (Hoshenk Muqaddami). As usual, enemy bodies were left behind

in piles and a few of the enemy fled in panic while the others fell captive to our forces. The situation in the new positions settled in favor of our forces.

God bless the brave III Army Corps — commanders, officers, and men. God bless the heroes of the 49th and 601st Brigades and shock troop companies. March ahead to new victories with God's help and support.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 March 1985

Envoy Stresses Readiness To Talk With Iran

EA202106 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Dar es Salaam — The Iraqi ambassador to Tanzania, Dr 'Abd al-Wadud al-Shaykhli, has stressed his country's readiness to hold talks with Iran in a bid to end the Gulf war. Dr al-Shaykhli told newsmen in Dar es Salaam today that Iraq is ready to negotiate with Iran if Iran shows willingness to end the war. The Iraqi ambassador was speaking on the recent attack by Iran against Iraqi forces in which Iraq claimed to have scored a great victory. He said Iraq wants to negotiate an unconditional cease-fire agreement to enable the two countries to hold talks to find a solution to the conflict in the Gulf which flared up in 1980. But the ambassador said that since Iran does not wish to hold talks on ending the war, Iraq will fight to the end to safeguard its independence and territorial integrity. Dr al-Shaykhli also refuted claims by Iran that his country is using chemical weapons in the war.

Council Deputy Meets With Soviet Officials

JN201606 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1545 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Moscow, 20 Mar (INA) — An Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council delegation led by Council Deputy Secretary General 'Isam 'Abd 'Ali has met with AAPSO Secretary Kalandarov. The two sides discussed the AAPSO Presidium decision to convene an international conference that will formulate a peace plan for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war. Kalandarov expressed understanding of Iraq's positive stand calling for an end to the war and negotiations to settle the problems between the two countries in a manner that would safeguard the two parties' rights.

'Isam 'Abd 'Ali also met with Khorokhodin, deputy chairman of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries yesterday. They discussed the same subject and ways of promoting relations between the union and the Iraqi Peace and Solidarity Council.

Indian Mediation Mission Arrives in Baghdad

BK210401 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] The high-level Indian delegation headed by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Khurshid Alam Khan, arrived in Baghdad last night on a mission to de-escalate the Iran-Iraq war. Mr Khurshid Alam Khan met the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr Tariq 'Aziz. He was assisted in the talks by the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, and other members of the delegation. They are expected to meet Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, today. The mission is a followup of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's appeal to both Iran and Iraq to stop attacks on civilian areas as a prelude to ending the intensified war between the two nonaligned countries. The All India Radio special correspondent, (Anant Charlu), reporting from Baghdad, says the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement is welcomed by both sides. It is hoped that some concrete proposals will emerge from the talks in Baghdad. The delegation will go to Tehran tomorrow for discussions with Iranian leaders. The Indian ambassador to the United Nations, Mr N. Krishnan, met the secretary general and apprised him of the initiative taken by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, to end the Gulf war. A UN spokesman said Mr Perez de Cuellar is working on several options in consultations with representatives of the two countries to defuse the crisis. The foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, who was to go to Nepal today, has postponed his visit, and he has gone on a special mission in connection with the Gulf war. He is now expected to visit Katmandu after a few days.

Fatah's Salah Khalaf Arrives in Baghdad

JN201738 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1617 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee, arrived in Baghdad last night on an official visit. This morning he met with several Iraqi officials and discussed current developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, as well as developments in the Iraq-Iran war. The discussion also dealt with means of further consolidating Palestinian-Iraqi ties.

National Assembly Delegation Leaves for Lome

JN201947 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A National Assembly delegation under Khadr 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy chairman of the Arab and international relations department, left for Lome, the capital of Togo, this afternoon to participate in the 73d IPU conference that will convene in Lome 25-30 March. In a statement to INA, Khadr 'Abd al-'Aziz said the Iraqi National Assembly delegation will submit an Arab draft resolution on the serious developments in the region, resulting from the prolongation of the Iranian aggression against Iraq, the Zionist enemy's oppressive measures against our Arab people in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, and the threats to security in the Gulf and the Red Sea which may pose a direct threat to world peace and security. Khadr 'Abd al-'Aziz said this draft resolution was approved by the Arab Parliamentary Union Council at its fifth conference in Aden late last month, which entrusted the Iraqi parliamentary branch with the task of submitting it to the Lome conference on behalf of the other Arab parliamentary branches.

King Husayn Presides Over Cabinet Meeting

JN201613 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Amman — His Majesty King Husayn presided over a Cabinet meeting this afternoon that fully reviewed Jordan's move in the Arab and international arenas, as well as the current situation in the region. His majesty issued his directives to the Cabinet regarding all topics under discussion. His majesty had met earlier with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat for a period of time. His majesty was accompanied by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court and the court minister.

Al-Masri Meets With U.S. Officials in Washington

JN210705 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Washington — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last night. They discussed the latest developments of the Middle East crisis and the U.S. Administration's stand toward them.

Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri had earlier met with U.S. Vice President George Bush and reviewed with him the situation in the Middle East in light of the recent diplomatic developments and the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement on a joint action formula.

The foreign minister also met with a number of journalists and people interested in Middle East affairs at a meeting that was organized by the U.S. magazine *FOREIGN POLICY*.

At the U.S. Enterprise Institute, the foreign minister met with a number of writers and specialists in Middle East affairs and Arab and foreign diplomats.

During the two meetings, the minister explained the Jordanian stand in light of the Jordan-PLO agreement, illustrating that this stand is a continuation of Jordan's policy that seeks to achieve a just peace that is based on the concept of land in exchange for peace, as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution No 242. He added that President Reagan's initiative, whose positive elements were welcomed by Jordan, rejected the idea of permanent Israeli control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip, contributed to emphasizing the concept of land in exchange for peace concept, and indicated that the Palestine question is the basis of the dispute in the region. Al-Masri stressed the need to recognize the Palestinian people's rights and their right to self-determination, indicating that the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement calls for peace negotiations within an international conference. He urged the United States to deal objectively with this agreement because it provides an opportunity to achieve a just peace in the region.

The meetings were attended by Jordanian Ambassador in Washington Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din and Jordan's permanent UN representative, 'Abdallah Salah.

Soviet Solidarity Delegation Arrives 19 Mar

JN201248 Amman AL-RAY in Arabic 20 Mar 85 p 26

[Text] Amman — *AL-RAY* — The Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries delegation led by (Suleymenov), deputy chairman of the committee, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, chairman of the USSR Union of Writers, and chairman of the Union of Writers KaSSR, arrived in Amman yesterday. The delegation was received by lawyer Faris al-Nabulsi, chairman of the Jordanian Committee for Peace and Solidarity, which is hosting the delegation. The delegation will hold consultations on the situation in the region.

Received by Senate President

JN201302 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi today received the deputy chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and member of the Union of Writers KaSSR, and the accompanying delegation which is now visiting Jordan. The talks dealt with spheres of friendship and cooperation between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the USSR.

President al-Jumayyil Chairs Cabinet Meeting

NC201310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Cabinet met at B'abda Presidential Palace this morning under President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. Prime Minister Rashid Karami and the other ministers, with the exception of Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt, were present. Minister Junblatt is outside Lebanon. The Cabinet is expected to discuss current developments in East Beirut, and a number of other questions as well. These include: filling the security vacuum after Israel's withdrawal, security developments in Sidon, political reforms, and the abolition of certain legislative decrees and the amendment of others.

At 1245, while the Cabinet was in session, a delegation representing the Islamic Group, which met earlier in Dar al-Fatawa under Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid, arrived at the Presidential Palace. Approximately 30 minutes later, a delegation comprising [former] Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam and Taqiy al-Din al-Sulh, and former Minister Baha' al-Din al-Bisat joined the Cabinet meeting to review events in Sidon. A delegation from the Army Command, which includes Army Commander Michel 'Awn, Staff Major General Mahmud Tayy Abu Dargham, the chief of staff; and Colonel Nabih Farhat, assistant director of Army Intelligence, also attended the session and briefed the Cabinet on the military situation in Sidon.

Camille Sham'un, minister of finance, housing, and cooperatives, left the Cabinet meeting at 1145. He told journalists: As today's session opened, the Cabinet conducted a general review of the situation and then began a discussion of the legislative decrees, some of which should be abolished and others amended.

Asked if he was satisfied with the development of the situation and the action being taken to remedy it, Sham'un said: If those involved use reason, then I'm optimistic. Reason is a fundamental precondition. We are in such a delicate situation that no party's independent position can fail to take the public interest into account. The public interest, and that of the country, as well as our nation's unity and future, make it incumbent upon every person to consider himself responsible and to think twice before taking any unilateral action. He added: What I say to individuals goes double for groups, parties, and organizations, both old and new.

Meanwhile, contacts between Beirut and Damascus continued today, and centered on the seriousness of the situation. It has been reiterated that President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil might visit the Syrian capital after the Cabinet meeting.

Uprising Discussed

NC201926 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] During its meeting today, the Cabinet discussed current developments, security conditions, and the legislative decrees. Opening the session, President Amin al-Jumayyil said: At this stage in the history of Lebanon, we do not wish to elaborate on our analysis of events taking place in the country in general, and in some areas outside Beirut in particular. However, I want to recall what I said in the Cabinet's last session to the effect that the emotional and narrow-minded proposals and slogans that we hear constantly can only lead to emotional counterslogans and proposals from the other side.

President al-Jumayyil added: I said at the Cabinet's last session that the portrayal of a portion of Beirut as national and Islamic must stop, so as not to force the other side of Beirut to become extremist and Christian in an introverted sense.

He said: It is regrettable that what I expected, called attention to, and warned against at the Cabinet's last session has come about, despite the long suffering we endured to control the situation in the Lebanese arena. We have been taken backward by events. Some areas in Lebanon have risen in reaction to the proposals and slogans to which I drew attention.

President al-Jumayyil continued: I reiterate that which I previously said. Let us stop holding each other responsible. The situation is more serious than simply throwing the ball into each other's court. It is too serious to permit us to conduct ourselves in the Lebanese arena, particularly at the Cabinet, as two separate parties.

The president went on: Recent events [words indistinct] their peace. There were preliminaries, which began with the burning of the Lebanese flag in Sidon, provocative festivals and proposals, and statements that caused anxiety. These preliminaries also included sectarian and ideological emotional atmospheres and actions alien to the traditions and nobility of the Lebanese family.

President al-Jumayyil then declared: The government is not evading its responsibilities. Great responsibility also falls on the shoulders of some leaders, however, who must realize the extent of their responsibility and the consequences of any negative action or conduct.

He added: We are seeking to save the homeland, rather than one faction, community, or party. The salvation of any one faction, community, or party can only result from the salvation of the entire homeland. If the homeland falls, God forbid, then the faction, community, or party will also pay the price. It is thus incumbent upon us to deal with the psychological vestiges that have been accumulating and interacting for 10 years of war. Therefore, we wanted to hold this session, despite the current conditions in Lebanon, to stress that we will continue our march to reconciliation, despite the difficulties, divisions, and interference.

Prime Minister Karami on Need for Unity

NC201532 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Statement by Prime Minister Rashid Karami to unidentified journalists following 20 March Cabinet session in Beirut — recorded]

[Text] The Cabinet has reviewed current developments in some areas, and listened to the president's views on these issues. We

agreed on his stated analysis and appraisal, and expressed concern about the results and scope of developments and the damage they can do to the public interest, particularly in the current critical circumstances.

While reaffirming our position on the reforms and on the government's policy statement, on the basis of which we won the vote of confidence, we must stress that our march to salvation and national accord continues to express the objectives of all our citizens, particularly following the conflicts of the last 10 years. It is no longer permissible for us to continue our conflicts and struggles and put personal interests above the public interest. In assuming its responsibility, the Cabinet wishes to prove that its patience and perseverance demonstrate the honesty, sincerity, and sound vision with which it serves public goals and places the country's sovereignty and future above any other consideration.

The events in the south, in Sidon and its environs, including various suspicious activities, cannot be accepted or tolerated. Indeed, the enemy promised that such sedition and disturbances would follow even before beginning his withdrawals. All of this underscores the need for awareness, cooperation, and solidarity among all of the Lebanese people. I am confident that no free Lebanese can agree to serve as a tool in an act that benefits no one but the enemy.

We will exert our utmost efforts and contact the various parties in an effort to put an end to these grave events. We listened to a statement by the Army Command containing the information available to it. The necessary instructions were issued so that the Army will do what is required to put an end to the current developments, which we reject, and the danger of which we realize. We examined the issue of the legislative decrees, the deadline for which is about to expire, and agreed to amend some of these decrees and abolish others. The Cabinet views its sessions as open. It may be compelled to hold another session on this coming Friday. This is all that was discussed.

[Reporter] Mr Prime Minister, in the light of today's Cabinet session has a new phase of action begun, following recent developments?

[Karami] There is no doubt that current events will force everyone to face up to their responsibilities. They are, in fact, a warning to us, stressing the need for awareness of and commitment to and by all of the Lebanese people, rising above partisan interests, communities, and most important, selfishness, for which we have paid so dearly. As I said, the government is committed to its policy statement. We must all seek to implement it cooperatively. We must prevent anything that does damage or produces division and concentrate on that which is useful and serves to unite the Lebanese.

Al-Jumayyil, Syria's Khaddam Discuss Sidon Events

NC210754 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpt] The situation in Sidon was discussed at length yesterday in a telephone conversation between President Amin al-Jumayyil and Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. Khaddam stressed that every support must be given to the Lebanese Army in the south to enable it to play its role in confronting the Israeli plots being implemented against the citizens there through Israel's agents and tools.

Damascus is stressing the need for opening the coastal road to the south and for withdrawal of the Lebanese Forces from Iqlim al-Kharrub and the coast, as otherwise Damascus would see itself absolved of its guarantees to preserve the security and safety of all the Lebanese in Iqlim al-Kharrub and on the coast.

Beirut Notes Israeli Airborne Operations

NC210823 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] According to security sources, Israeli troops parachuted into 'Arab Salim, Jba', Humin al-Tahta, Humin al-Fawqa, 'Arab al-Jall, Sarba, Kafr Hata, and Kafr Milki at 0730 today.

Military sources have reported that some 60 Israeli enemy military vehicles — tanks and armored cars — began entering these villages at 0600 today under cover of heavy fire. The enemy forces have taken up positions in these villages. Other units passed through these villages and went on to other towns, penetrating deep into the areas from which they had withdrawn. Violent fighting continues to rage between the Israeli forces on one side, and the Lebanese Army and local residents on the other.

It has been reported that the Israeli enemy forces entered these villages and towns from 'Arab Salim, and were headed north along two axes — the Humin al-Fawqa-Sarba-Rumin-Irkay axis and the Jba'-Kafr Milki axis.

Beirut on Situation in Sidon Area

NC201306 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Concern continued to be focused today on remedying the situation that has arisen in the eastern areas and the current events in Sidon. It has become known that the exacerbation of the security situation in Sidon and the Lebanese Forces' attacks on the Lebanese Army constitute a close link with the uprising led by Samir Ja'ja' and his assistants.

This is apparent from the fact that the situation in Sidon returned this morning to what it was yesterday. The Lebanese Forces created tension by violating the cease-fire and expanding the area of their attacks on Army positions and peaceful citizens. Sniper fire, accompanied by explosions in the area, continued to be heard until the early hours of this morning, which caused thousands of inhabitants and families to leave the areas under the influence of the Lebanese Forces.

According to security sources, a new count of the casualties in the escalating violence and military operations backed by Israel, shows approximately 50 persons wounded and a number dead.

Ja'ja' Appointed Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff

NC201426 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1418 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Upon its formation today, the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee held its first meeting. The committee unanimously decided to appoint Dr Samir Ja'ja' as [Lebanese Forces] chief of General Staff.

Lebanese Forces To Suspend Rules for 6 Months

NC201500 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee held a meeting at 1030 today. The meeting, which ended at 1500, was attended by Dr Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, Fadi Afram, Karim Paqraduni, Antoine Bridi, Charle Gestine, Elie Aswad, Etian Saqr — alias Abu Arz, Abu Roy, George 'Adwan, Elie Rahmah, Pierre Dahir, and Rafiq Barakat.

At the end of the meeting, attorney Paqraduni read the following statement:

At its meeting today, 20 March 1985, the Lebanese Forces Emergency Committee decided the following:

1. All rules currently in use by the Lebanese Forces shall be suspended for a 6-month transitional period. New rules will be prescribed during this time;
2. The present Lebanese Forces Command Council will remain the body representing the [Christian] parties under the chairmanship of Dr Fu'ad Abu Nadir;
3. The Emergency Committee will be converted into an Executive Committee which will act as a collective body;
4. The Executive Committee will be composed as follows: Samir Ja'ja', Elie Hubayqah, Fadi Afram, Karim Paqraduni, Antoine Bridi, Charle Gustine, Elie Aswad, Etian Saqr, Fawzi Mahfuz, and George 'Adwan.

Abu Nadir Mobilizing Men, Cadres for Defense

NC201857 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Reports received from the east say that having been relieved by the Samir Ja'ja' group's emergency committee of all of his executive posts and [words indistinct], Fu'ad Abu Nadir is now mobilizing the men and cadres inside the Lebanese Forces loyal to him in an attempt to retrieve his position. The forces that were hesitant have declared their loyalty to the Abu Nadir command after he [words indistinct].

A new stage has thus begun within the groups that split from the Phalange Party, which could mark a new military struggle. As a result of these struggles, troop concentrations, tanks, tracked vehicles, and roadblocks are being seen all over the eastern area, particularly in the area of the museum, Sahat al-'Abd, the Al-Ashrafiyah vicinity, Al-Karantinah, Al-Jisr Al-Wati, and Jisr al-Basha. Tanks and gunmen have also been seen in the vicinity of the Phalangist Military Council.

Army Command Statement on Personnel Loyalty

NC201235 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 85

[20 March statement by Army Command's Guidance Directorate]

[Text] Following the security incidents of 18 and 19 March, which received varying treatment by the media, the Army Command immediately issued a statement recording the facts and spelling out its position on these incidents.

This command today stresses the following:

1. The Army's personnel is exclusively and completely loyal to the Army. When isolated mistakes occur during a mission or while manning a roadblock, this does not mean that the command or the Army as a whole should be blamed. Such incidents should only be regarded in this light.

2. The Army Command frequently finds itself in charge of an Army which is attacked by gunmen who do not appreciate the Army's national orientation. Nevertheless, this command believes that its main task is to liberate the land and defend the people. The soldiers always carry out this mission, even in the face of bullets fired by compatriots.

Hence, the Army Command appeals to everyone, particularly under the currently delicate situation, to keep in mind this immutable fact — that the Army is drawn from among all the Lebanese and belongs to all of them. The Army stresses this fact by its dedication to the unity and independence of Lebanon. We, as soldiers, regard ourselves as the sons and guardians of the homeland, of which we cherish every grain of its soil and every rock on its mountain, despite the agonizing tragedies. This is the kind of feeling that dictates the actions of the Army Command.

The Army Command is calling on all officials to work for creating an atmosphere of appeasement consistent with the higher interests of Lebanon, which should always remain above all other considerations.

Shi'ite Leader Discusses Resistance, Jihad

PM202153 Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI in Arabic 18-24 Mar 85 pp 20-23

[Interview with Shi'ite theologian Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by 'Ali Hamadah in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpts] **Hamadah**: The resistance movement has created a practical and serious way of confronting the Israeli occupation of our territory. Do you believe that the recent explosion in Bi'r al-'Abd and the Al-Zrariyah massacre will lead to an escalation of the resistance operations?

Fadlallah: I believe that the resistance has not emerged as a reaction and does not operate as such. There is a long-term plan for the expulsion of Israel from Lebanon first, and then from the region if possible. That is why it does not simply react to the crimes and massacres committed by Israel. These barbaric massacres probably motivate the fighters to concentrate on and speed

up the plan, and to try to become a pressing and effective political factor.

Hamadah: You said in your first answer that the second aim of the resistance is to oust Israel from the region if possible. Do you have a plan or a program for the continuation of the struggle and the jihad for the liberation of Palestine?
Fadlallah: I cannot talk about an integrated plan, but I can talk about a future vision of the nature of the nation's spiritual capabilities generated through this new upsurge, which has made resistance a reality on the ground, not just a decorative aspect of one region or another, or a mere settling of scores on behalf of one revolutionary wing or another. I believe that if this spirit could spread, it would cause a deep crack in the solid body of the Israeli entity. If we could make good use of it, there would be no major problem regarding the objective of finishing Israel off. At present there is a defeatist mentality because we think about the arms in Zionist possession and having to face it with the same type of arms, but if we thought about new ways and means we would be able to open holes in the solid wall.

Hamadah: If the resistance is to lead to the liberation and unification of Lebanon and the creation of a new revolutionary situation in the region, what specifically do you ask of the political leaders who operate in accordance with programs well below the level necessary for such a situation?
Fadlallah: I cannot ask anything of them because I believe that the real leadership stems from the base. It is not the kind of leadership imposed on the base by certain disturbed political conditions.

Hamadah: After the Bi'r al-'Abd massacre, the heroic resistance operations, and the subsequent Israeli reactions, do you expect large-scale Israeli aggression against any particular part of Lebanon?
Fadlallah: I believe that Israel is at present going through a phase of madness and hysteria because its reputation and credibility in the region are at stake. On the one hand it is thinking about leaving Lebanon in a face-saving manner, and on the other it is preoccupied with the possibility that its withdrawal from Lebanon might create a situation in the region which could end Israel's existence in one way or another. It is also thinking about the effects current events might have on the political language it uses with the United States on a political settlement and the political issues raised in the region. Israel is now hysterical. We know that some Israeli leaders sometimes act hysterically to convince the Israelis that they are strong and able, and perhaps to convince them that the current conflict between the Israeli parties has entered the Lebanese arena. That is why I expect a demonstrative Israeli blow anywhere, because these leaders want to convince themselves and their people that they are still the stronger side.

Hamadah: How do you explain the fact that the resistance against Israel has various names?
Fadlallah: Actually the two predominant names are the Islamic resistance and the national resistance. My information is that there are fighters who, although of Islamic identity, are non-Islamic in their trends, but they do not constitute a high percentage. I believe that 90 percent of the fighters are from the Islamic resistance. This figure is based on my own knowledge of the situation. If I am mistaken, the margin of my error cannot be more than 10 percent.

Hamadah: Is the Islamic resistance a part of the general political and ideological trend in the region and does it aim to spread as part of that trend?
Fadlallah: I believe that the Islamic resistance is part of the general situation. It is not a private matter, but as part of a general fabric it assumes a private dimension.

Hamadah: Will the resistance operations stop at Lebanon's international borders or extend into the occupied territory? What political and ideological scope will it have?
Fadlallah: Quite naturally the horizon toward which the Islamic resistance moves is the liberation of Palestine, but the question is to what extent circumstances will allow it to go. The liberation of Lebanon is a firm and final decision, but the liberation of Palestine depends on the objective circumstances governing the revolutionary situation in the region, because the prerequisites for the liberation of Palestine are different from the prerequisites for the liberation of Lebanon already available to us.

Hamadah: In your view, in what way can the Lebanese Christians participate in the resistance operations and the liberation of Lebanon?
Fadlallah: I believe that the Christian needs to go back to the depth of Christianity. I discern some kind of peaceful exploitation of the Christians, if that is the right expression. The Christians have been led to think of love in an ambiguous and uncertain way, which creates uncertain feelings which cannot chart a course of action. That is why the Christians, who have values and ideals which can defy all corruption, have had to live in a way contrary to their values and ideals. The Muslims and the Christians are in the same situation. The ten commandments do not mean peaceful relaxation. They mean permanent confrontation in the service of mankind. "Thou shall not kill" means that you should preserve life through work, but at the same time it implies that you should prevent a killer from killing. As to how you should do that, it may allow you all preventive and defensive means and you could perhaps discover other means. "Thou shall not steal" means that you should not steal and should also prevent others from stealing. You should prevent the state from stealing, and prevent the ruler from stealing, and prevent everyone around you from doing such a thing. Prevention requires means and methods which could engage you in violence. We believe that if Christian ideologists go to the depth of the values and ideals of Christianity, and even study some actions of Christ, peace be with him, they will realize that a human being is capable of defying, confronting, and fighting with the same strength which enables him to tolerate and forgive.

Hamadah: Do you believe that the resistance operations will create a revolutionary situation which could affect local, regional, and international equations?
Fadlallah: That would actually depend on the dimension the resistance will assume in the future. We do not want to talk about the unknown in an abstract way. We want to probe the horizons of the future through current steps. I believe that the spirit driving the resistance is beginning to intensify and grow from being simply a combat state of mind into a political and ideologi-

cal state of mind, if that is the right expression. As such the resistance may be able to maintain its growth and enter the arena as a new formula in competition with other formulas in the future.

Hamadah: Let us move to internal affairs. Would you say that political unity of the Muslims is the right way to approach dialogue with the Christian side?
Fadlallah: When we talk about two sectarian or religious situations, it is preferable not to have more than two sides. Islamic political unity would enable us to know what the Muslims want and would ensure seriousness and prevent one sect from undermining and blackmailing another. Much can be achieved and much can be prevented through certain alliances which could make successful dialogue possible on a certain basis.

Hamadah: How do you view the Lebanese state, structure, and regime and what do you think of the proposed settlement?
Fadlallah: We look at these matters from a political angle. We do not believe that a situation should remain exactly the same forever. There is talk in Lebanon about the immortality of the Lebanese entity or of Lebanon or of its special and unique formula. That is just poetry in my opinion. The truth is that the world is changing in various ways all the time. There are no permanent entities. Europe, big as it is, is now considering unity. States think and act differently nowadays. Lebanon cannot escape the winds of change. Every effort made to keep Lebanon as it is would only make it more backward and encourage the elements of change even more, because it would expose Lebanon's rotten state of affairs more and more to the public and the new generations. That is why I say we should think realistically. In Lebanon there are those who are Muslims, those who are Christian, and those who are neither. They all live in Lebanon, the country of freedom. They should all be able to express their political views and try to arrive at certain conclusions. I, for example, do not consider those who maintain that Lebanon would not last to be an infidel. I also despise a person who talks in a sectarian and haphazard way. As far as we are concerned Islam is a religion, a creed, a system, and a law. Even if Islam is not accepted as a divine religion it should be looked at as an ideology which provides a complete concept. Let there be discussion and dialogue on this point.

Hamadah: Such talk scares the Christians.
Fadlallah: It scares the Christians who are not rational, but the rational Christians think the same way that we do.

Hamadah: What about a settlement?
Fadlallah: If a solution is achieved we would not oppose it now, but we also would not commit ourselves to it or to its results. We will try to change the situation as much as possible.

Hamadah: What do you think of federation or confederation plans?
Fadlallah: In my view Lebanon is too small to be partitioned. If by such ideas they mean demographic movement and amicable exchange of population between one area and another on a sectarian basis, then I absolutely reject these ideas.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Iranian President

JN201143 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a written message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on the situation in the region in light of the current attempts to widen the Camp David course, the aggravation of the Zionist aggression against Lebanon and the Palestinian Arab people, and the need to exert joint efforts to confront the capitulationist trends which increase the Zionist enemy's boldness in continuing to perpetrate its crimes.

Quadripartite Meeting Opens in Damascus 20 Mar

Libya's Jallud, Delegation Arrive

JN201331 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, memmber of the 1 September revolution command in Libya, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Damascus at 1400 today. Jallud was received at Damascus International Airport by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, the Libyan charge d'Affaires in Damascus, and the Libyan liaison office staff.

'Strategic Arab Unity' Sought

LD201832 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 27, March 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud arrived mid-day today in Damascus to attend the meeting to be held today there related to the call of the leader of the revolution for the establishment of "strategic Arab unity" between Libya, Algeria, Syria and South Yemen, in addition to the Arab-African union between Libya and Morocco. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salim Ahmad Jallud was welcomed by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice-president of Syrian Arab Republic.

Meeting Opens

JN201845 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A quadripartite meeting was held at the Al-Asad Library in Damascus at 1800 today. The meeting was attended by Syrian, Algerian Libyan, and PDRY delegations.

The Syrian delegation was led by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and consisted of Comrade Dr Sulayman Qaddah, Ba'th Party Regional Command assistant secretary; Comrade Tawfiq Salihah, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; and Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister.

The Algerian delegation was led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, official in charge of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Permanent Secretariat, and consisted of Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, minister of foreign affairs; Arabi al-Zoubeireh, FLN Central Committee member; Mohamed al-Qaderi, adviser at the presidency; and Salih Boujoumaa, ambassador in Damascus.

The Libyan delegation was led by Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the 1 September revolution command, and consisted of Abu Zayd Muhammad Durdah, secretary of agrarian reform and land reclamation; Kamil Mansur, assistant secretary of the Arab- African union; and Daw Suwaydan, member of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison.

The PDRY delegation was led by Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the YSP Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, and consisted of Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Political Bureau member and foreign minister; Dr Mutlaq 'Abdallah Hasan, Central Committee member and secretary of Supreme People's Council Presidium; 'Ali 'Abduh 'Abd al-Rahman, ambassador in Damascus; and Yasin Ahmad Salih, chief of the Arab department at the Foreign Ministry.

Arab Situation Discussed

JN210600 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A quadripartite meeting was held at the Al-Asad Library in Damascus at 1800 yesterday. The meeting was attended by Syrian, Algerian, Libyan, and PDRY delegations.

The conferees discussed issues related to the developments currently taking place in the Arab arena and that of the Arab- Israeli conflict. They reviewed the Lebanese situation and developments, as well as all aspects of the Arab situation. Viewpoints were in agreement about all the topics that were reviewed and discussed, and about the means to confront the new Arab developments.

Meeting Ends; Summit Planned

JN210955 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — The meetings held by the delegations of the four fraternal states — Syria, Algeria, Libya, and the PDRY — ended at dawn today. The conferees discussed all aspects of the Arab situation, current developments in the region, moves within the context of imperialist and Zionist plans and their agents, and means of facing these plans. Viewpoints were identical on the matters that were raised. It was decided to hold a summit of the four states in the near future.

The conferees hailed Syria's steadfastness under struggler leader Hafiz al-Asad in firmly and resolutely confronting hostile plans against the Arab nation.

AL-THAWRAH Examines Meeting

JN210843 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Damascus Meeting and the Credibility of Syrian Policy," *AL-THAWRAH* says: The intense activity by the Arabs that Damascus is presently witness-

ing is of special importance and significance because it is aimed at enhancing ties among the Arab steadfastness forces to confront the deviation and capitulation line which the imperialist and Zionist forces are trying to peddle through the 'Arafat-Husayn agreement, Mubarak's initiative, and the liquidatory plans in the Camp David accords.

AL-THAWRAH adds: All of these events and developments confirm that the Arab area is exposed to comprehensive and dangerous challenges, and that this situation can only be confronted by strengthening the pan-Arab steadfastness and transforming it from a defensive to an offensive position so it will result in a popular movement in the Arab arena to foil the deviationist and capitulatory line, to contain its active tools, and to enable the Arab nation to defeat the imperialist Zionist reactionary onslaught. The capitulatory tide must retreat and collapse, because the vital forces in the Arab nation will take the initiative and move in the required direction to foil the imperialist and Zionist plans.

AL-THAWRAH says: The quadripartite meeting that is being held today in Damascus confirms the soundness of Syria's stand and national pan-Arab policy under the leadership of President Struggler Hafiz al-Asad. Syria, which has rejected the Camp David plans, confronted the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, foiled the 17 May agreement, removed the U.S. and NATO forces from Beirut, and compelled the Zionist enemy forces to withdraw from Lebanon, has proved by actual practice that the dominant factor in the area is the current of steadfastness and confrontation and not the line of deviation and capitulation. The Arab nation can safeguard its existence, defend its territory and interests, and confront all threats and challenges. The momentous role played by Al-Asad's Syria is behind the comprehensive pan-Arab uprising in the Arab arena and the Arab masses' aspirations of achieving their legitimate aims of building the progressive socialist society.

Iran's Velayati, Delegation Depart Damascus

JN201803 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his delegation left Damascus this afternoon. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and the Iranian Embassy staff in Damascus.

Official Denies Suspending Flights to Tehran

JN202036 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus — The director general of the Syrian Arab Airlines company has stated the following: Contrary to what has been reported by certain foreign radios, the company has not suspended flights to Tehran. No one has the right to interfere with or attack civil aviation.

Vice President Receives Former U.S. Official

JN201057 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received George Ball, former U.S. under secretary of state, in Damascus at 1000 today. The U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with the current situation in the region.

Ba'th Official Confers With Messaadia, Al-Hamidi

JN201403 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met here today with Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, secretary of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretary, and his accompanying delegation. The talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two parties, the developments in the Arab arena, and matters of mutual interest to the two parties and countries.

Al-Ahmar also met with 'Umar al-Hamidi, secretary general of the Arab People's Congress. The talks revolved around the Aden solidarity meeting, and the tasks of the Arab people's organizations, forces, and parties to mobilize the popular potentials of the Arab nation in order to confront the schemes of capitulation and their tools and acts of defiance , reinforce Syria's struggle, and continue the struggle until victory.

GDR Friendship Delegation Arrives in Damascus

JN201921 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Damascus, 20 Mar (SANA) — A GDR-Syrian friendship delegation led by Hans Sattler, director of the office for youth affairs at the GDR Council of Ministers, arrived in Damascus today on a visit to Syria that will last several days. The delegation, which is now visiting Syria at the invitation of the council of the schools of martyrs' sons and daughters, held talks with a delegation of the council of schools led by Major General Muhammad Milhim on ways to reinforce and develop educational and cultural cooperation between GDR youth and sons of martyrs.

Commentary Views Mubarak, Husayn, Saddam Moves

JN201448 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Station commentary]

[Text] The president of the Camp David regime has moved from Washington to Baghdad after stops in Europe and Amman. During his visit to Baghdad he was accompanied by King Husayn. Some people may wonder: What brought these three people together? If Yasir 'Arafat had joined them, the picture would have been complete.

In fact, what brought this bloc, axis, or grouping together is their mistaken view of pan-Arab issues. As a result, they adopted

positions that are hostile to the Arabs, their causes, and their fateful battle with Israel. Instead of using Iraq and its energies in the pan-Arab battle against Israel and U.S. imperialism, Saddam's regime launched an aggressive, unjust war against the Iranian revolution which had toppled the shah's regime, Israel's ally and the sword that was threatening the Gulf States. Moreover, the Iranian Revolution raised the slogan of jihad for the liberation of Jerusalem.

The Camp David regime in Cairo separated Egypt and its energies from the Arab-Israeli equation and surrendered it to Israeli and U.S. conditions. Consequently, it became a threat to Libya and a buffer between Libya and Syria, as a senior U.S. official put it recently. Now it has become a broker for the policy of surrender, defeatism, and obedience to the United States. It also encourages Palestinian deviation in favor of Israel and the United States.

King Husayn's regime, which has a long, black history with the Palestinian Arab people's cause, whih carried out the massacres of black September, and which held secret contacts with Moshe Dayan and other Israeli officials, has also removed itself from the battle against Israel. It did not abide by the Arab summit resolutions in Rabat, Baghdad, and Tunis and announced its readiness to enter into negotiations with Israel and the United States in order to liquidate the Palestine question in cooperation with the deviationists, who capitalize on the Palestinian people's cause. These deviationists are led by Yasir 'Arafat.

These are the three people who met in Baghdad to revive the disreputable, buried SENTO, or, in other words, to revive the trend of agentry to imperialism, cooperation and alliance with Israel, and hostility toward the pan-Arab aspirations of the Arab masses and their causes, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

The Egyptian president's humiliation in Washington, Washington's aggressive positions against the Arabs and their cause and rights, U.S. responsibility for Israel's aggression, its occupation of the Arab land, and its usurpation of Arab rights, did not prevent the Egyptian regime from taking its present course. Unfortunately, the rulers who detached themselves from their peoples and put the pan-Arab cause in the hands of the enemy did not learn from the lessons of history, did not consider the fate of SENTO and the Camp David parties, and did not understand the meaning of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement in Lebanon and the compelling of Israel to withdraw its defeated army from Lebanon. The path of agentry to imperialism and surrendering to or forming an alliance with Israel will be rejected by the Arab masses and will never have roots or bases in the Arab homeland.

There are forces of Arab steadfastness that refuse to surrender to Israeli aggression and imperialist plans in the Arab arena. They are able to unify their ranks and coordinate their moves in cooperation with the Arab masses, who have enough energies to impose their will and shape geography and history in their region. They are also able to undermine the aspirations of Washington and Tel Aviv regarding ways to determine the region's future and the Arab-Israeli conflict. The battle of the Arab nation's masses should be against the Zionist enemy and its ally, U.S. imperialism, and not against Iran, Libya, or Syria, as alleged by the leaders of the tripartite capitulatory trend which will end up just as SENTO did.

Peres on National Unity Government

TA202028 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in his office by Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir on 20 March — recorded]

[Text] **[Ahime'ir]** How would you assess the national unity government's future? Many people are speculating about the chances of its survival.

[Peres] Those who show an interest in the national unity government should learn about two things — the country's situation and political mathematics. Regarding the situation in the country, I cannot conceive of a responsible person who, seeing the problems we have in Lebanon, the economic, social, and the peace issues, can propose giving up everything, rolling up his shirtsleeves, and starting to fight against members of other parties. I think that would demonstrate irresponsibility and a lack of seriousness. Mathematically, I do not believe that any one party in the current Knesset could establish a government. Thus, none of the speculations make any real impression. The combination of both the political issues and the parliamentary situation is such that all the talk about the government's downfall has no basis in reality.

[Ahime'ir] What could cause the government's downfall?

[Peres] If you ask my opinion, there is only one issue which is really disputed. Neither party disputes nor parliamentary blows, as you call them, can cause the government to fall. If we had to decide on a peace plan with Jordan, differences of opinion might emerge that could bring about the government's downfall. I do not foresee this. Another thing might be differences of opinion on economic issues. Here too, though, I do not anticipate differences of opinion running along political lines. So, at this point, if you ask me, I do not see this as a relevant issue.

No Danger to Unity

TA210646 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir does not believe the unity government is in any danger. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that in Shamir's opinion, pronouncements on this matter have been exaggerated, and he hopes that matters will be clarified in his talk with Shim'on Peres the day after tomorrow.

Following a few days of tension within the coalition, efforts are now being made to cool tempers. The heads of the Knesset Alignment and Likud factions believe that the coalition will hold. At any rate, there has been no controversial political issue likely to shake the unity of the government.

Rabin Promises To Help Develop Gaza Settlement

TA201808 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has promised to help develop Jewish settlement in the Gaza District. The Qatif District, Rabin promised, is an inseparable part of the State of Israel. Today Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured the Gaza Strip and met with the mayors of Gaza and Dayr al-Balah, as well as with the Jewish settlers. Our correspondent Arye Gus accompanied him.

[Begin recording][Gus] At the end of a long day in the Gaza Strip, the defense minister met with representatives of the Jewish settlements in the Hof 'Aza [Gaza Coast] Regional Council and he promised he would help them develop the area and its settlements.

[Rabin] I have always understood that national priorities must be given to the border areas, to the areas that will play a role, and are playing a security role, close to borders or confrontation lines and, in particular, I regard the Qatif District, and not only it, but especially the Qatif District, as falling into this category and, as you quoted me, I believed then, as I also believe today, that that area must, in any event, be an inseparable part of Eretz Yisra'el, of the State of Israel. It is naturally a part of Eretz Yisra'el.

[Gus] In Gaza the defense minister promised to help develop the town, as far as possible, but he called upon friendly countries, and, especially, the United States, to contribute to raising the standard of living of the inhabitants of the territories and not to just demand that Israel do so.

As for the inclusion of Palestinians in the negotiations, the defense minister said:

[Rabin] No Israeli government has been opposed to several Palestinian representatives participating in a Jordanian delegation, if and when Jordan should decide to sit at the negotiations table with Israel, but it is primarily desirable that they should be residents of the territories not identified with the PLO.

[Gus] Sir, what is your opinion of the creation of the Jordanian-Egyptian-Iraqi axis?

[Rabin] I do not express opinions about matters that are not connected with anything Israel does. It is a fact — King Husayn and President Mubarak went to Baghdad to meet with Iraq's president. I assume that their considerations and reasons are best known to themselves. It interests me whether Jordan will agree to join the peace process, that is, sit around the negotiations table and speak directly with Israel, with Egypt, and the United States present. That is what will determine the possibility of furthering, of expanding the peace process. [end recording]

Agreement Reached on U.S. Involvement in Economy

TA201122 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 20 Mar 85 pp 1, 2

[Text] Israel has agreed to the United States deepening its involvement in what is being done in the Israeli economy. This agreement was reached yesterday in a meeting between the prime minister and the finance minister and U.S. Professors Fischer and Stein, who, on behalf of the U.S. Administration, are following moves in the Israeli economy.

The meeting was held in Shim'on Peres' office in Jerusalem. The meeting was also attended by Avraham Tamir, the director of

the Prime Minister's Office, and Amnon Neubach, the prime minister's adviser on economic affairs.

It was agreed between the two sides that a grading system will be developed to follow the implementation of the economic policy. At Israel's suggestion, it will periodically inform the United States about its economic objectives, and the Americans will check whether these objectives are being met.

According to reliable sources, the meeting took place in a friendly atmosphere, but it has been learned that there were also differences of opinion between the two sides. The Americans believe that Israel must devalue the shekel and make a further cut to the budget. The Israeli representatives explained that this would be very difficult to do and would have serious repercussions for the economy and society.

The American professors did not say in the meeting whether they will recommend to the U.S. Administration to grant Israel emergency aid of $1.5 billion in the coming 2 years.

Treasury Figures on Defense Budget, Lebanon War

TA210559 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] According to calculations made by the Treasury, there will not be a real defense budget cut this year. Treasury sources told our correspondent that several tens of millions of dollars will only be cut if there are no deviations [from the budget]. It seems that the main reason lies in the fact that no budget was allocated for the stay in Lebanon and the IDF evacuation from there.

The war in Lebanon has so far resulted in a supplementary budget of nearly $1.3 billion. If one calculates reserve days and the losses to the economy, it seems that the entire war cost about $2 billion. Our correspondent nevertheless notes that over the last 4 years, the defense budget has gradually been cut by about $600 million.

Policy on U.S.-Palestinian Negotiations Unchanged

TA202031 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has issued an announcement saying that there has been no change in Israel's position which rejects initial negotiations between the United States and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. The announcement was made in reaction to reports appearing today.

Further on Visit of FRG Opposition Figure Vogel

Vogel Praises Withdrawal Policy

TA210748 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The parliamentary leader of the Social Democratic opposition in Germany, Hans-Jochen Vogel, is in Israel as the guest of the Labor Party shortly after his own party's important victories in local elections. After meeting Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Vogel spoke last night with Kol Yisrael's [the Voice of Israel] Gid'on Remez:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Vogel is full of praise for the Peres government: the decision to withdraw form Lebanon, the halt of settlements in the territories, the intensification of exchanges with Egypt, even if no immediate outcome is apparent. The SPD stand on the settlement issue proves we do not accept any Israeli demand solely because of the past, he said. But on an issue debated in the Knesset during his visit there yesterday, Vogel agrees with the Israeli consensus. The law forbidding denial of the Holocaust, which he initiated as justice minister, should not be amended as now proposed in the Bundestag.

[Vogel] We say there should not be a mixture between the Holocaust and between other atrocities. The outcome is uncertain. It depends on the chancellor himself, what he is saying and doing, and it depends also on the politicians, like Franz-Joseph Strauss who was very friendly received in your country.

[Remez] Strauss has made clear his favorable stand on arms sale to Saudi Arabia, and Vogel is critical of Kohl for failing to take a decisive stand against it, like the SPD.

[Vogel] I think it is out of acceptance [phrase as heard] to think that a German shell is hitting Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial or any other place of your country. [end recording]

Vogel, 'Influential Palestinians' Meet

LD201741 Hamburg DPA in German 1614 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Jericho/West Jordan, 20 Mar (DPA) — SPD Parliamentary Party Chairman Hans-Jochen Vogel has urged the Palestinians to seize the opportunity that has arisen with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's Middle East initiative.

In a talk with influential Palestinians today in Jericho, in the Israeli-occupied West Jordan region, Vogel's appeal met with approval. However, his interlocutor, former mayor of Ramalla Karim Khalaf, urged Vogel to address the same appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres.

He said that Peres refused to accept PLO representatives in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation suggested by Mubarak for peace talks with Isr[illegible]. Only participation by the PLO, however, would give legiti[illegible]y to a Palestinian delegation. "If we let this opportunity sl[illegible]en we will have missed the chance of peace for decades," Khalaf said. The former mayor lost a foot in a bomb attack in 1980.

In a subsequent DPA interview, Khalaf said he informed Vogel that the Palestinians recognize Israel as a "fact". PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is prepared t[illegible]xpress this recognition "if Israel in return recognizes the PLO a[illegible]describes the West Jordan region and the Gaza Strip as occupied territories." The Palestinians in these areas stand "fully behind 'Arafat." Syria would never succeed in splitting the PLO, Khalaf said.

IDF Forces Search Two Lebanese Villages

TA211015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] IDF forces are currently conducting searches in Srifa and Jinnata and two Shi'ite villages east of Tyre. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht learned this from the UNIFIL Command.

In Srifa village, about 100 men were gathered in the local school for questioning. Finnish UNIFIL soldiers are stationed in the village.

Earlier, Lebanese Army sources said that an IDF armored force raided Kafr Milki, about 15 km east of Tyre, at dawn today.

20 Terrorists Killed During Search

TA211209 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] IDF forces have been conducting searches in two villages in the Al-Nabatiyah area for the past few hours, and in one of the places, our forces killed 20 terrorists. A large amount of weapons, including mortars, was found in their possession. Our forces suffered one wounded, but his wounds are slight.

Army Spokesman Denies IDF Advance Toward Sidon

TA211120 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The Army spokesman has refused to comment on news agency reports of an Israel Army search and arrest operation in Kafr Milki, 15 km southeast of Sidon, and in Maghdushah, which is only 4 km from Sidon. Lebanese military sources in Sidon said Israeli troops in 60 vehicles entered Kafr Milki at dawn, opening fire and searching houses.

The same sources said the Israeli force arrived at Maghdushah at 0800 [0600 GMT] this morning. The Army spokesman denied that Israeli troops had advanced toward Sidon, saying that Israel had no intention of coming close to Sidon or intervening there.

HA'ARETZ Sees No Intervention

TA210851 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Mar 85 p 1

[Report by political correspondent 'Akiva Eldar]

[Text] The continuing battles in Sidon are strengthening the assessment in Jerusalem that the violence will spread to other areas evacuated by the IDF in southern Lebanon. Prime Minister Shim'on Peres recently said there is no certainty that the Shi'ites will continue their attacks on Israel after the withdrawal. He based himself on assessments that after the IDF withdrawal, the Lebanese will be involved in a sectarian war, and that the Shi'ites will not be interested in the terrorists' return to their areas and will struggle against them just as they did before the Lebanon war.

In any event, it is said in Jerusalem that Israel will not intervene in any way in the internal fighting in Lebanon as long as the weapons are not aimed against it. Following President al-Jumayyil's call on the Lebanese to attack Israel and the Christians' attempts to draw closer to Syria, Israel is not prepared for or interested in adopting a positive attitude toward them.

IDF Prohibits Demonstrations in West Bank

TA201238 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The commander of the IDF Central Command has ordered that Jews and Arabs be prohibited from holding political demonstrations in Judaea and Samaria. This was said by Major General Amnon Shahaq in a written declaration to the High Court of Justice in answer to the appeal of the 1985 struggle group [a group protesting against the Jewish settlements in the territories]. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar recalls that the group recently requested permission to man protest vigils along the planned route of the prime minister's tour of Judaea and Samaria. However, the commander of the Central Command emphasizes in his written declaration that he does not mean that all political rallies or marches in this area will always be prohibited.

ALGERIA

Messaadia-Ponomarev Talks Held in Moscow

PM201417 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 15-16 Mar 85 p 5

[APS dispatch: "Messaadia-Ponomarev Talks in Moscow"]

[Text] Moscow — During the visit to Moscow by Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo, head of the FLN Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, who represented Algeria at the head of a large delegation at President Konstantin Chernenko's funeral, political talks were held last Thursday at CPSU Central Committee headquarters between the Algerian delegation and a Soviet delegation headed by Mr Boris Ponomarev, candidate member of the Politburo, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and chief of the Central Committee International section.

The delegation headed by Mr Messaadia comprised Mr Abdelmadjid Allahoum, member of the Central Committee and Algerian ambassador to the USSR; Colonel Larbi Si Lahcene, member of the Central Committee and central director of the Political Commission of the People's National Army; and Mr Abbas Dlimi, member of the Central Committee and deputy speaker of the People's National Assembly.

The Soviet delegation comprised, in addition to Mr Ponomarev, Mr Ulyanovskiy, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Section; Mr (Ariadonov), chief of the Arab countries sector of the CPSU Central Committee International Section; and Mr Kuzmin, chief of the North Africa sector of the CPSU Central Committee International Section.

The talks between the two delegations focused on relations between the FLN and the CPSU and between Algeria and the Soviet Union, ways of strengthening them, and the opportunities for developing bilateral Algerian-Soviet cooperation in all spheres.

After the two sides had discussed some international problems of common interest, Mr Ponomarev asked Mr Messaadia to convey to President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, the best wishes of new CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev.

In addition, Mr Messaadia, continuing his talks with the heads of the delegations in Moscow, had a meeting last Thursday with PDRY President Muhammad 'Ali Nasir. The talks related to the Arab world's problem in both the Maghreb and the Mashriq.

Daily Criticizes Moroccan Attitude on W. Sahara

LD201207 Algiers APS in English 1018 GMT 20 Mar 85

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Algiers, 20-3-85 (APS) — Under the title "The Policy of Painting Things As Black As Possible" the national daily *EL MOUDJAHID* referred on Wednesday [20 March] to the situation in Western Sahara and stressed that at the time when "many protagonists renewed the expression of their faith in the Maghrebian ideal and reaffirmed their determination to unceasingly work for the meeting of the conditions for the unitary entreprise", "Morocco has chosen to distinguish itself by an initiative which takes the opposite course to efforts strived till now and is hampering their methodical and serene carrying one".

Morocco's king who already had during his press conference of 8 March purposes which opposed the good will which were expressed at the Maghrebian level, persists in this way by going with his parliaments" in certain occupied regions of Western Sahara in order to celebrate the so-called "marocanity" [as received] in spite of the verdict of Africa which accepted SDAR as a full member of the OAU and in violation of the international right which conferred to the Saharan territory a statute separated and distinct from the Moroccan territory one *El MOUD JAHID* released.

EL MOUDJAHID pointed out the seriousness of the Moroccan initiative since "it opposes hopes of the Maghrebian peoples for the creation of a dynamic" capable of favouring the edification of the Maghreb "shows the persistance of the Moroccan choice for" the policy of pointing things as black as possible" while "the best" seemed to be at the reach of the Maghrebine people" this attitude" is serious also, before the ineluctable political solution of the Western Sahara conflict which is on more line postponed.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks With Morocco's King Hassan

LD201827 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1808 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli 20 Mar (JANA) — A telephone contact took place today between the brother leader of the revolution and King Hassan of Morocco.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Turkish President

LD201837 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Mar (JANA) — The brother leader of the revolution has received a written message from Kenan Evren, president of the Republic of Turkey.

KUNA Cites Beirut Daily Interview With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD210614 Kuwait KUNA in English 1432 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Beirut, 20 Mar, (KUNA) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi called Wednesday for formation of several regional Arab unions as a prelude to achieving the larger pan-Arab unity.

In an interview published today in Lebanese daily *AL-SAFIR*, the Libyan leader said a union between four Arab states is easier than a merger between 20 countries. Al-Qadhdhafi said the regional groupings can forge defense links among themselves with the aim of protecting the Arab world from external threats while working to reach all out unity. The Libyan leader said he

had asked leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council states to forge a union to fill the vacuum and defend the region.

Al-Qadhdhafi said the leaders of Syria, Algeria, Libya, and South Yemen, who make up the steadfastness and confrontation front will soon meet in Damascus to draw a formula for a unity between front states and the Afro-Arab union grouping Libya and Morocco. The front, which originally grouped also the PLO was formed in 1979 to confront the situation in the Arab world as a result of the peace accord between Egypt and Israel. Libya and Morocco signed their merger agreement last August in the hope that other Arab and African countries would join the union.

Commenting on relations with his neighbors, Egypt and Sudan, the Libyan head of state claimed that "Egypt has been preparing to launch a military strike against Libya, with American assistance." In addition to gripping Egypt militarily, the United States, Al-Qadhdhafi said, has turned Egypt into a consumer market for American products to distance Cairo from the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to the Sudan, Al-Qadhdhafi said the Sudanese Government turned down a Libyan financial assistance offer following the United States' decision to suspend aid to Khartoum.

Al-Qadhdhafi said he does not believe in the possibility of ending the Iraq-Iran war because Tehran is determined to fight on.

MOROCCO

King Hassan Concludes Tour of Southern Provinces

LD202033 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Agadir, March 20 (MAP) — King Hassan II of Morocco Tuesday evening returned to Agadir after a tour in the southern provinces of Taroudant, Tan-Tan, Guelmin, Tiznit, and Laayoune. During his five-day sojurn in Laayoune, the sovereign who was accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid inaugurated several socio-economic projects and presided over a joint meeting of the Special Consultative Council for Sahara Affairs and the Southern Economic Zone.

The stay in Laayoune climaxed by the sovereign's visit to bases of operation of the Royal Armed Forces along the defense wall at about 40 km to the south of Bou Craa. The sovereign on the other hand decorated the pennants of several armed units and promoted a number of colonels to the rank of colonel major.

The sovereign's visit to the bases of operation was an opportunity for the elements of the Royal Armed Froces to reaffirm to their supreme commander their unshakable determination to defend the country's territorial integrity and sacred values. This tour in the southern provinces was also an occasion for the Saharawi populations to reiterate their Moroccanity, their attachment to their motherland, and their allegiance to the king of Morocco.

All along the itineraries and roads taken by the sovereign during this tour, tens of thousands of people came from all the Saharan provinces to hail King Hassan, reaffirm their loyalty and faithfulness to the throne, and voice their gratitude to their benefactor, he who liberated their provinces from colonial domination and who raised their living standards by guaranteeing them medical care and education, decent housing and telephone centers, sporting complex and industrial units.

Journalists from the international media who visited these provinces in the wake of their liberation ten years ago unanimously ascertain that these regions have been utterly transformed and that from the insignificant boroughs they were under Spanish colonialism they have become important urban [words indistinct] with all necessary modern infrastructures.

SUDAN

Al-Tayyib Expresses Satisfaction With U.S. Relations

JN201457 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Washington, 20 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President Retired Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib held a meeting with U.S. Vice President George Bush here yesterday. They held further talks on issues that Bush had discussed with Sudanese officials during his visit to Sudan in early March as well as spheres of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Sudanese first vice president expressed Sudan's appreciation for the positive U.S. position and for U.S. aid to Sudan. He also expressed Sudan's satisfaction with the course of relations between the two countries.

The U.S. vice president stressed the U.S. Government's support for Sudan's serious efforts to overcome all economic difficulties, especially the problems of drought, desertification, and refugees.

The first vice president had left Khartoum for Washington last Saturday.

Returns From U.S. Visit

JN201901 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1748 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Mar (SUNA) — First Vice President Retired Staff Major General 'Umar Muhammad al-Tayyib returned here this afternoon after a 3-day working visit to the United States during which he met with Vice President George Bush and several senior officials in the U.S. Administration.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and regional issues, including the drought problem and the conditions of the refugees in Sudan.

The talks also touched on the anticipated dialogue on southern Sudan and the U.S. role in extending urgent economic aid for development projects in the south.

President's Council Hears Security, Economic Reports

EA202158 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] At 0900 this morning the leader president, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, president of the Republic, chaired the fourth meeting of the third session of the Council of the President of the Republic, at the headquarters of the Secretariat General of the Presidency of the Republic.

At the beginning of the meeting President Numayri greeted the new members of the council. The council then heard the report presented by the deputy head of the state security organ on security conditions in the country, stressing the complete stability of conditions all over the country.

After that the council reviewed the economic situation in the country. The minister of finance and economic planning reviewed the financial policies and measures resulting from the devaluation of the Sudanese pound.

The minister of commerce, industry, and cooperation dealt with the current supply situation, pointing out that his ministry's declared policies aim at restoring the balance between commodity exports and imports in order to alleviate the effects of the devaluation of the Sudanese pound. His excellency added that in the implementation of the directives of the president of the Republic, duties on production inputs have been reduced in order to fulfill development requirements.

The governor of the Bank of Sudan dealt with monetary policy and foreign exchange policy at the meeting, emphasizing the importance of drawing up policies that depend on self-production capabilities and resources to reduce imports and increase exports. He was followed by the minister of irrigation and deputy chairman of the committee for the Establishment of the Supreme Council for Natural Resources, who reported on the steps taken by the committee which had been formed in accordance with Republican Decree Number 577 of 1984. He explained that the council's task is to draw up policies and strategies for evaluating natural resources and preserving the environment, as well as for defining and proposing methods for efficient exploitation of the resources.

The reports were rounded off by the minister for the affairs of the Presidency of the Republic at the Presidency of the Republic at the Secretariat General. He reviewed the plan for the establishment of the Supreme Council for the Development of Human Resources which will draw up plans in the fields of education and training and utilization and planning of manpower.

The Council of the President of the Republic approved the plan for the establishment of the Supreme Council for Natural Resources and the plan for the establishment of the Supreme Council for development of Human Resources. It also praised the efforts being exerted by the Supreme Council for the National Economy which has been in constant session since its formation.

Then an elaborate discussion took place among members of the Council of the President of the Republic about issues raised by the aforementioned reports.

At the end of the meeting the president of the Republic put forward some observations about what went on at the meeting, drawing attention to the importance of coordination among the various organs in order to achieve benefits. The president of the Republic commended all the security organs for their vigilance and for guarding the security of citizens, urging them to greater efforts.

Acting OAU Secretary General Arrives in Khartoum

JN201919 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1755 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 20 Mar (SUNA) — Acting OAU Secretary General Peter Onu arrived here this evening on a 3-day visit to Sudan to become acquainted with the situation in the refugee camps in Sudan. In a statement on arrival, Peter ONU said that his visit and that of his colleagues in the OAU Secrearіat is aimed at investigating the refugee problem in Sudan and the consequences of drought and desertification.

TUNISIA

President Bourguiba Receives Algerian Minister

LD202354 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba received Mohamed Haj Yala, Algerian minister of interior and localities today. The meeting was attended by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

Essebsi Discusses Gulf War With Iraqi Counterpart

LD202227 Tunis TAP in French 1300 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Summary] Tunis, 20 Mar (TAP) — Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi had a telephone conversation on Tuesday with Iraqi Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. According to informed sources, the conversation concerned the latest developments in the Gulf war. Mr Essebsi expressed President Bourguiba's deep concern over these developments.

SOMALIA

Interior Minister Makes Official Visit to Italy

For Rome reportage on the visit to Italy by Interior Minister Brigadier General Ahmed Suleiman Abdalla, including his meeting with Italian Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, see the Italy & the Vatican section of the 20 March Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

Radio Halgan: Nation Expelled From Youth Movement

EA210559 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Somalia has been expelled from the Pan African Youth Movement at the recent sixth congress of Pan African Youth held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 11 to 15 March.

The congress, which was attended by 32 full members and 20 with observer status, resolved to exclude Somalia from Africa's youth movement because of its illegal collaboration with the apartheid regime of South Africa.

The Mogadishu regime led by Siad Barre has established trade relations with Pretoria, permitted South African Airways to overfly Somalia and use airport facilities, and offered a military base to South African forces in the Kismayu area. The Mogadishu regime has also signed a military agreement with the illegal regime of Pretoria.

Radio Halgan: DFSS Forces Attack Base, Kill 23

EA202009 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The gallant fighters of the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia, DFSS, wing of the Somali opposition forces launched an attack on the loyalist troops of Siad Barre forces killing 23 soldiers and wounding 19 others. The DFSS fighters launched the attack on the loyalist troops of Siad Barre's base in (Dabat) town, in Cabuud Waaq District, Ghel Gudut region, central Somalia on 18 March 1985. The intrepid fighters of the DFSS also destroyed the command post of the fascist Siad Barre's forces who were defending (Dabat) town. In another surprise attack launched by the 9th General Aynanshe Division of the DFSS early this week on the (Dabat) base belonging to the loyalist troops of Siad Barre, six soldiers were left dead and eight others wounded. In both engagements, the DFSS fighters who launched the attack returned to their bases safely.

TANZANIA

Cholera Outbreak Kills Three in North

EA210312 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 0400 GMT 20 Mar

[Excerpt] Arusha — A team of doctors and nurses has been sent to (Kuwash) village, (Gorowa) Division, in Hanang District, which has been hit by a cholera outbreak. Reports from Babati said that three people have died of cholera which broke out in the village on 7 March. The Arusha regional health officer, Ndugu (Oben Line), told SHIHATA [TANZANIA NEWS AGENCY] today that there was no danger of the outbreak spreading because sufficient drugs have been sent to deal with the situation.

CHAD

GUNT Dissident Gives Conditions for Meeting Goukouni

LD202246 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A group of opponents to the Ndjamena regime is composed of Transitional National Union Government [GUNT] dissidents, those who created the Rally of Patriotic Forces [RFP] in Ouagadougou last August. This is a movement which unites five of the factions which made up the GUNT. The RFP challenges Goukouni's role as leader of the opposition, considering that keeping him as president of the GUNT is stopping any possibility of dialogue with Hissein Habre.

The RFP's foreign affairs representative, Fascho Balaam, met with reporter Edouard Dor, who asked him about the chances for dialogue to be resumed within the opposition. As you are going to hear, Fascho Balaam, set down three conditions.

[Begin recording] [Balaam] Let us say, first of all, that we are ready to begin discussions with Goukouni and with Kamougue's Northern Armed Forces [as heard] to look at the whole situation again, but this meeting must take place outside of Libya.

Second, we are ready to have talks with Goukouni, but on the basis of the signatories of the Lagos agreements — in other words, as a representative of the People's Armed Forces and not as president of the GUNT, as we no longer recognize his position as president of the GUNT, as this came out from the signing of the Lagos agreements. [sentence as heard]

Third, we say that the talks can only center on the National Liberation Council of 1983.

We can see no other way, outside of these three points.

[Dor] Another question, Fascho Balaam. One of the former GUNT leaders, Revolutionary Democratic Council leader Acheikh ibn Oumar, left the GUNT a few months ago without definitely going over to the opposition, and we have heard nothing more about him. It is simply known that he has been arrested. Do you have any information about him?

[Balaam] If Goukouni really wants to see the forces fighting against Habre united, Acheikh must be released, as we do not know Acheikh's (?position). Sometimes we are told he is in one place — in Faya Largeau, in Bardai, in Fada. Until now we have been promised he will be released, but up till now no one is able to say who arrested Acheikh and when he is going to be released. So I think the most important thing is that Goukouni release Acheikh, that he is seen, and this could perhaps create a different climate between us.

[Dor] A last question, Fascho Balaam: Is the RFP still ready to take part in a possible reconciliation conference on Chad?

[Balaam] The Chad situation must end up with negotiation, as there is no other way out. Habre's position, which is to try to rally the others, is an erroneous position, as he will never be able to bring over to his side the Chadians who are fighting against his regime. Everyone agrees that there should be talks. [end recording]

Briefs

Envoys Present Credentials — Relations between Chad and other countries are excellent. As proof of this, two new ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary presented their credentials to the head of state this morning. They are Their Excellencies (Martin Koyo Kobdolet) and Michael Francis Daly, respectively CAR and British ambassadors to the Republic of Chad. [Excerpt] [*Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Mar 85 AB*]

GABON

Bongo Releases Two Political Prisoners

AB201550 Paris AFP in French 1034 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Libreville, 20 Mar (AFP) — According to official sources in the Gabonese capital, Gabonese President Omar Bongo on Tuesday in Libreville ordered the "conditional" release of two political prisoners who were sentenced in November 1982 to 20 years' imprisonment by the state security court. This measure reduces to five the number of persons who are still in prison after being judged in 1982 for "infringing upon state security," the same source pointed out.

About 30 persons, most of whom belong to the banned Movement For National Redress, appeared before the state security court for "hostile" activities against President Bongo's regime, especially for the distribution of leaflets and the printing of a "white book" calling for the setting up of a multiparty system.

BENIN

Gabonese Foreign Minister Meets With Kerekou

AB201047 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 0615 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Martin Bongo, the Gabonese minister of state for foreign affairs and President Bongo's envoy to Benin, who arrived in Cotonou last Monday, was received in audience by the head of state, President Mathieu Kerekou, yesterday. Mr Bongo, who was leading a Gabonese delegation, told the press that he went to deliver a personal message from President Omar Bongo to President Kerekou.

Talking about the purpose of his visit later, the Gabonese foreign affairs minister stated that the visit was aimed at normalizing, strengthening, and reviving the relations and cooperation existing between the two countries. Recalling the mishaps that marked the period of tense relations between Gabon and Benin, the Gabonese minister of state pointed out that he came to Cotonou, I quote, to discuss the problems still existing between the two countries in order to find solutions to them so that our relations become again what they used to be.

GHANA

Official on Efforts To Deal With Refugee Problem

AB201500 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The government is making serious efforts to deal with the problem of refugees who have been arriving in Ghana from Chad, Burkina Faso, and Mali. Speaking to the GBC [Ghana Broadcasting Corporation] in Accra today, the director of social welfare, Jonas Amoakon, said the influx of refugees has become a problem because this is the time foreigners have come into the country in such great numbers. He said unlike the Ghanaians deported from Nigeria in 1983, the refugees have no families to go to. Mr Amoakon said the department has located most of the areas where the refugees are concentrated in Accra, Sekondi, Takoradi, and Kumasi, and the Ministry of Health has immunized them against diseases. He said his department intends to survey Camp Yawa, which served as a refugee camp some years ago, to find out whether it would be suitable for use as a temporary resettlement center.

Meanwhile, organizations like the Christian Council and the Catholic Relief Services have been giving food aid to the refugees. An intergovernmental committee has also been set up to deal with the problem.

Briefs

Ambassadorial Appointments—Nine new ambassadors were today presented with their letters of accreditation by Mr Justice D.F. Annan at the Castle, Osu. They are Mr Justice Laryea for Belgium; Mr Boniface Kwami Atekpor, Ethiopia; and Mr Larry Djimi, Guinea. Others are Mr Osei-Bonsu Amankwah for China, Mr Kwame Sanaa Poku Jantuah for the GDR, and Mr George Missah for Liberia. The rest are Mr James Amissah for Japan, Colonel Dr William Anoff for Egypt, and Mr Christian Kposu for Benin. [Summary] [*Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 20 Mar 85 AB*]

GUINEA

Trade Relations Meeting With Ivory Coast Opens

AB201445 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Excerpts] A commercial meeting between Ivorian and Guinean traders opened at the Palace of Nations in Conakry yesterday morning. Yassine Diallo has the details:

[Begin recording] The aim of the meeting is to enable Guinean and Ivorian traders to find the ways and means to increase and diversify trade. This morning, participants in the meeting — industrialists, private traders, general managers, and top officials from many ministries — stressed the need to strengthen the relations of cooperation existing among developing countries, that is, cooperation between public and state sectors and increased contacts between economic promoters and traders of the two countries.

The Ivorian prospecting mission to Guinea is evidence of the willingness of the two countries to strengthen their cooperation.

(Peouli Soumah), the permanent undersecretary of the Guinean Ministry of Commerce, after speaking of the austerity measures taken in the face of the difficult international economic situation, reassured the participants of the arrangements made to foster dialogue between our country and our neighbors.

At the end of the first meeting, three commissions were set up: The first commission will deal with agricultural questions, the second will examine industrial problems, and the third will deal with trade. A final meeting will bring the three commissions together next 22 March.[end recording]

LIBERIA

Government Adopts Economic Recovery Measures

AB201046 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Liberian Government has introduced a structural adjustment program as a means of economic recovery. According to Executive Order No 8 issued yesterday in Monrovia, the benefits of the program will include increased revenues [word indistinct] through improved collection procedures and selected revenue measures as well as improvement in the allocation and use of Liberia's resources.

The measures adopted by the government for the successful implementation of the structural adjustment program include an increase in the excise tax on gasoline from $1.25 to $1.50 per gallon at the LPRC [Liberian Petroleum Refining Company].

The measure is aimed at increasing the government's revenue from the energy sector in which the increases, according to Executive Order No 8, shall have no effects on the retail price of gasoline, which remains $2.90 per gallon. The executive order, however, says the tax-free price of gasoline shall be $2.39 per gallon and, in addition to existing tariffs, a 10-percent surcharge has been imposed on all imports to Liberia for non-dollar areas, (?and this) surcharge shall not have any appreciable effect upon consumer prices for goods in those areas.

Bill Filed Against LAP; Doe Appeals for Withdrawal

AB201242 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A formal bill of objection has been filed against the proposed Liberia Action Party [LAP] at the People's Monthly Probate Court in Monrovia by one Isaac K. Doe and others from Kawrakehn, Liopu District in lower Grand Gedeh County. Yesterday's edition of the *FOOTPRINT* newspaper quotes the objectors through their legal counsel, (Flagor R. McFarlane), as asking the probate court to reject and deny the document for the registration and probation of the proposed LAP as a full-fledged political party.

In their bill of objection filed to the probate court on March 14 and signed by their legal counsel, (Flagor McFarlane), the objectors are quoted as saying the entire documents presented by LAP are a by-product of fraud, deceit, and constituting a legal ground for this objection, adding [words indistinct] is supported by law and facts. They noted in their objection that as residents of Grand Gedeh County who have legally registered to vote in the ensuing elections in October this year, the registration of their names as members of the proposed LAP was not obtained through fair play and legal regularity. The objectors added that on several occasions, they have advised and pre-warned the representatives of LAP both in Grand Gedeh and Montserrado Counties respectively that fraud had been committed in obtaining their names as registrants of the party but the officials have failed to make the corrections. Meanwhile, a case for legal argument is slated following the filing of resistance by the LAP.

In another development, the head of state, Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe, has appealed to citizens of lower Grand Gedeh County to withdraw their bill of objection to the Monthly Probate Court, to reject and deny the document for the registration and probation of the proposed Liberia Action Party. In making the appeal for the withdrawal of the bill of objection, the head of state said that such magnanimous act on their part would help greater atmosphere for political stability in the country.

NIGERIA

Planning Minister on IMF Talks, Labor Policy, Economy

AB201237 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The Nigerian Government will continue to negotiate with the officials of the International Monetary Fund until it gets a loan on acceptable conditions. The minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, stated this in Lagos yesterday in a public service lecture entitled: Reviving the Nigerian Economy. The minister reiterated the government's decision not to accept IMF conditions that will not be in the interest of Nigeria.

Chief Adigun gave the assurance that the government will not reduce its works force beyond levels necessary for effective governments.

To diversify the economy, Chief Adigun stated that the government will ensure that the production of export crops such as cocoa, palm kenerls, and rubber was increased.

On Debt Rescheduling

AB202237 Dakar PANA in English 1715 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Lagos, 20 March (NAN/PANA) — Nigeria's minister of national planning, Chief Michael Adigun, yesterday in Lagos reiterated the government's determination to relax its debt burden through rescheduling of debts.

In a public service lecture titled "Reviving the Nigerian Economy" delivered at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Chief Adigun said that so far efforts have been made to refinance trade arrears worth about 1.88 billion naira (about 2.2 billion dollars) and uninsured debts of about 2.7 billion naira (about 3.2 billion dollars). He said that talks are continuing in respect of guaranteed trade arrears with export credit agencies.

On the International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan, the minister said that the Federal Government would continue to negotiate with IMF officials until an agreement acceptable to both sides was reached. He said that IMF Officials had continued to insist on devaluation of the naira and removal of petroleum subsidies as preconditions for granting the loan.

He said that the government had been able to secure some bilateral loans from friendly countries but added that the loans were insignificant compared with Nigeria's needs.

He said that the government would intensify efforts to reduce unemployment through encouragement of labour-intensive industries.

Paper Supports Plan for Referendum on Civilian Rule

AB201049 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Mar 85

[From the press review]

[Text] The *NIGERIAN STANDARD* supports the present administration's plan for a referendum before it hands over power to the civilians. The paper is of the view that the referendum should be based on the system of government the country should adopt. The *STANDARD*, however, urges the Federal Government to ensure that a suitable system of government that will be of immense benefit to the country is evolved.

Regional Railway Conference Ends in Johannesburg
MB201213 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The fourth interrailway engineering conference has ended in Johannesburg. Engineers from South Africa, Mozambique, Zaire, Swaziland, Malawi, Zimbabwe, and Zambia discussed joint problems and exchanged information. It is the first time the conference had been held in South Africa.

ANGOLA

Luanda Views Cape Verde Meeting With Crocker
MB210526 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Representatives from the Angolan and U.S. Governments, Alexandre Rodrigues "Kito" and Chester Crocker respectively, have once again discussed the withdrawal of the South African military troops from southern Angola in Cape Verde. The Angolan interior minister and the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African Affairs also discussed the question of Namibia's independence, the settlement of which is provided for in UN Security Council's Resolution No 435.

Political observers say that it was possible that the Praia meeting discussed Angola's recognition by the Washington administration.

After the negotiations, Alexandre Rodrigues "Kito" and Chester Crocker were separately received by Aristides Pereira, president of Cape Verde, to discuss the prominent aspects of this round of negotiations.

The U.S. assistant secretary of of state for African Affairs has arrived in Cape Town where he will very shortly hold discussions with Pik Botha, South African foreign minister, on the latter's government's troop withdrawal from Angola.

MPLA-Labor Party 10th Anniversary Declaration
MB201043 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Declaration of the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau on the 10th anniversary of the People's Republic of Angola; date and place not given — read by announcer]

[Text] The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots: On 11 November 1985, the whole Angolan nation is going to commemorate a date of the highest historical significance for our people, the party of Agostinho Neto, Africa, and humanity as a whole. It is the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of independence of the People's Republic of Angola.

Angola won its liberty thanks to the unselfish struggle by its best sons and the justness of the political guideliness and clarity of the basic program of the then People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola, which always identified Portuguese colonialism as the immediate enemy, and imperialism as the principal enemy.

Angola's independence, besides proving the irreversibility of the historical process begun in the post-war era, was also the culmination of a successful resistance stretching over centuries, a continual resistance by our people against foreign domination. The historical feats of forerunners of the resistance such as (Engoleaqui O. Anjo), (Zinga Bandi), (Equiqui), (Mandube), and many others are particularly illustrative examples. Despite the inferiority of their weapons in the face of a well-armed enemy, they always raised the torch of struggle against slavery and for liberty.

Colonialism only managed to extend its domination thanks to the superiority of its military means and to the lack of unity among the Angolan people, which resulted from their low national awareness and the absence of a political force with truly national characteristics which could unit the will of the people. Thus, the rise of the MPLA in 1956, following the merger of a number of nationalist organizations, provided the necessary strength and the surest guarantee for independence. Above all it defined the correct strategy to definitely end the long colonial night, thanks to a 14-year armed struggle.

The combat led by the MPLA was long and difficult, but above all victorious. We overcame times of vacillation, destroyed the traps set against our clandestine struggle, and fought fascism. We aligned our movement to exclude opportunism, divisionism, and disunity among the militants. We fought the treason of pseudo-nationalists and colonialist agents and, in the final phase of the formation of the People's Republic of Angola, we defeated outright the vast army of mercenaries and foreign troops in the pay of international imperialism, which wanted to smother our young republic.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, on 11 November 1975, as guns were still heard in Quifangondo, the late President Agostinho Neto proclaimed before Africa and the world the independence of our country and its birth as the People's Republic of Angola. The date of 11 November 1975 has particular significance, not just to our people but also to Africa and to humanity. With the proclamation of our national independence on that date, we signalled the defeat of colonialism and the determination to annihilate imperialism's intent to neocolonize our country.

It was the consecration of the sacrifices of our unselfish people, who rose up in arms to destroy the system oppressing them. Our people were able to preserve this most sacred of conquests in the face of their territory's invasion by the worst enemies of Africa and the most docile agents of imperialism. On 11 November 1975, our people rose heroically against all forms of domination, and thus Angola became the first African country to dispell the racist South Africa's myth of military invincibility and to inflict a shameful military defeat on imperialism, something which had never happened in Africa before.

This glorious date also represents a victory to all peoples still struggling for their liberation and independence, as it proved the historical inevitability of colonialist and imperialist defeat and decisively encouraged the struggle of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa, East Timor, the Western Sahara, and other regions of the globe. In the final analysis, the date of 11

November unequivocally demonstrates that peoples fighting for their independence have a secure rearguard in the democratic and progressive forces of the world in general, and the peace and liberty-loving forces of the socialist community countries in particular.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, due to the aggressiveness of imperialism, and especially its main agent in this region, racist South Africa, independence did not bring the peace, tranquillity, and well-being to which our people so much aspired. Nonetheless, contrary to the predictions of the myopic strategists of imperialism, our people continue to resist as bravely as ever, while the counterrevolution sinks further into an agony which will inexorably lead to its annihilation. The heroic saga of our people's struggle during these first 10 years of independence resides among the most brilliant events of the anti-imperialist struggle of our epoch.

The young Angolan state was born and grew under the weight of a disastrous colonial heritage characterized by growing illiteracy, poverty, high mortality rates, departure of skilled technicians, destruction, and abandonment and sabotage of vitally important economic centers. The MPLA, ready for the toughest and hardest combat, did not retreat for a single moment in the face of this new situation, deliberately wrought by its internal and external enemies. As always, the MPLA proved its maturity and perseverance. A total of 10 great campaigns for literacy were organized, reaching 956,756 people. The cultural level of our people was significantly raised, and its once humble worth is now being recognized.

The means of production were nationalized and our country took charge of foreign trade and banking, medical assistance, and education, which were previously inaccessible to the broad masses and which became free services. In the fields, about 400,000 peasants organized themselves into cooperatives and associations, thus acquiring a new awareness of collective work. More than 628,000 workers are members of the National Union of Workers of Angola and organized into trade unions according to their areas of activity. A total of 1,070,603 women are members of the Organization of Angolan Women. The people's vigilance brigades, created little over a year ago, now have 320,000 men under their command in 12,000 brigades.

Despite the country's serious economic and financial situation, and its well known historic factors and events, it is undeniable that the people have successfully carried out some of their objectives on both the political and material fronts. In the field of agriculture, the land became the property of those who work it. Significant steps were taken toward the creation of cooperatives, the state sector was expanded, and, in a general context, the proper conditions were created for the constant growth of strategic goods production, such as those included in the emergency programs for agriculture. In the industrial sector, the enterprises — the wealthiest sector and primary means of production — became the forebearer of our democratic and popular state. Many enterprises and small factories sabotaged by our enemies were generally reactivated. In the mining sector, growth was stimulated, and the production of petroleum was increased considerably. In the financial field, the introduction of the kwanza as the national currency deserves particular recognition, as it constituted a gesture of sovereignty and a severe blow to outside attempts at economic strangulation. Above all, as a firm and secure guarantee of our achievements, there is the transformation of the glorious People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola into a powerful, modern, well-armed, disciplined, and combative army always ready to follow the guidelines of the party and the FAPLA commander in chief.

The foundations have been laid. We have to develop the socialist awareness of our workers and teach them a positive attitude toward work and social property, so that we may not only preserve what we have achieved, but also eliminate the errors we have made and raise the level of economic growth. In this framework, we must now concentrate our efforts on improving the quality of education and continuing the constant improvement of health and medical assistance to the population. We must strengthen peasant cooperatives and associations, trade unions, and so on.

On the political front, the MPLA accumulated rich experiences in the struggle against colonialism — uniting the widest layers and strata of our people — and 2 years after our independence became the MPLA-Labor Party — a determining leading force in the building of a socialist society. With the creation of the MPLA-Labor Party, the Angolan people advanced more surely toward the consolidation of its victories and, above all, of the labor class and its allies into the organizations of popular power. The People's Assembly — the supreme body of state power — was created, as well as the People's Provincial Assemblies, thus permitting the effective execution of power by the people.

On the international front, our people also won resounding victories which increased the prestige and respect that the MPLA's struggle commanded throughout the world.

All these facts unequivocally emphasize the justness of the MPLA-Labor Party's principles and allow us to securely conclude that, despite the hostility of imperialism's aggressive circles, our party continues to be the sole force capable of taking Angola to the place which it deserves by merit and by right among the independent and free nations struggling for a greater level of justice at the international level.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, thousands of anonymous heroes and others whose names remained forever engraved in the memory of all the Angolan people gave up their precious lives to make victory irreversible. The greatest of these names is that of Antonio Agostinho Neto, immortal leader of the Angolan revolution, and founder of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the Angolan nation. Agostinho Neto was not just a revolutionary statesman, an intellectual man gifted with the intrinsic qualities of profound humanism, intelligence, tenacity, and totally dedication to the cause of his people and all those who are exploited throughout the globe, Antonio Agostinho Neto became the eternal symbol of our struggle, the symbol of national unity, and the symbol of all our heroes. His sudden passing away on 10 September 1979 represented an irreplaceable loss to our people, who saw in him the very historic dimension of the struggle.

However, as Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos put it, the party — leading the people as one — immediately honored the valuable legacy of the late President Neto, drawing from his example as a brilliant leader, builder of national unity, and founder of the glorious FAPLA, the light to defeat the night and the courage to continue the march which he began toward socialism, in search of happiness for the people.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, the current revolutionary process is doubly limited by the complex nature of the classes in our society and the counterrevolution fed from outside. Harmonious development is hindered by different beliefs stemming from a continuous class struggle. In fact, there is an increasingly evident alignment of certain sectors of our society with beliefs that are not always linked with the socialist ideals of our people. This is revealed, first and foremost, by a failure to abide by the principle of national unity and Angolan party and government decisions aimed at satisfying the interests of all the people. That manifestation is directly responsible for the growth of influence of the small urban and rural bourgeoisie trying — although still timidly — to find space for maneuvering for their consolidation. It is a serious obstacle to the radicalization of the revolutionary process. However, as Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos put it, our party members are attentive to the maneuvers of imperialism, its agents, and opportunists who come at every stage.

The working people, laborers, peasants, and revolutionary intellectuals are with the party and trust its ability to lead its victorious struggle for socialism. In these conditions, the MPLA-Labor Party continues to believe that national unity is fundamental to safeguard national independence and the preservation of revolutionary gains. Thus their consolidation requires an all-out fight against all manifestations contrary to the superior interests of our people and the revolution's objectives.

This stance becomes even more just in light of the fact that our country continues to fight imperialist attempts to strangle it through the desperate actions of gangs which are armed and trained by South Africa. In fact, the war situation which has continued to be imposed upon us since the dawning of independence demands that all true Angolan patriots — without exception — adopt an attitude of unequivocal repudiation of our peoples's enemies, whose objectives have been unmasked at the national and international levels.

We must be fully aware of the fact that the armed counterrevolution is purely and simply an imperialist instrument aimed at the economic, social, and political destruction of the People's Republic of Angola, besides the fact that its closest promoters are also the sworn enemies of Africa and humanity. The already official support received by the puppets from South Africa is fruitlessly aimed at making the Angolan people return to the long night of poverty and domination which they suffered for 5 centuries. Realistically, this will never be possible because the victories attained by the MPLA-Labor Party are irreversible. Responding to the action of the puppet gang, the MPLA-Labor Party continues to believe that it is necessary on the one hand to continue a ruthless battle against those individuals who continue to choose counterrevolutionary violence and destabilization; on the other hand, we will continue to adopt a policy of clemency with regard to all compatriots who join the great Angolan family, thus peacefully and honestly contributing toward the mammoth task of national reconstruction.

On this date, our party, people, and government solemnly reaffirm that they are ready to receive all those who may decide to rejoin the society of justice and well-being which we are building. By the same token, and consistent with the coherence of our principles, we unequivocally reiterate our people's unyielding decision to combat all those who may continue on the criminal path until they are annihilated.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, during these 10 years the Angolan nation has travelled an arduous and diffucult path unequalled in Africa history. The continuous situation of war in which we live, the world economic recession over the past few years, and various factors of an internal nature, hinder effective attainment of planned economic objectives. However, the indisputable successes we have scored thanks to a correct evaluation of the means and capabilities at our disposal encourage us to walk surely toward the implementation of our plans. We must increasingly stimulate and ascribe responsibility to national cadres, peasants, and workers, so that all may be truly enlightened about the pressing need for development of the economy, an indispensable condition for the improvement of our people's standard of living.

Our country's experiences teach us that the path to economic progress is very complex and they prove the modernity of Lenin's words that the classes which were oppressed, treated like animals, and kept in the claws of misery and ignorance through violence, cannot carry out a revolution without errors. With everyone aware of this need for self-criticism and goodwill to amend errors, the task of consolidating the centralized leadership of the economy becomes doubly important, as does the consistent implementation of the fundamental principle of the socialist leadership, which is unity among orientation, execution, and control. At the same time, it is necessary to combat implacably all elements jeopardizing the objectives of the national plans, by means of necessarily effective political, administrative, and legal measures.

Furthermore, it is also necessary to implement a more efficient control of production and distribution of goods, with a view to improving supply to the people, both in urban and rural areas. We cannot lose track of the fact that with agriculture as the basis of our development, special attention must constantly be paid to peasants and agricultural workers. Realistically speaking, we can never improve supply without increasing production and productivity. All these problems related to the economic, political, social, and military life of the country will be deeply analyzed by the second ordinary congress of the party, which will outline the guidelines necessary for this stage of our people's struggle. The second party congress, scheduled to take place in the year of the 10th anniversary of national independence, will permit a realistic and dynamic deepening of our country's socialist path.

The Angolan people, comrades, and compatriots, the experience of long years of struggle has unequivocally shown that the defense of the Angolan revolution was only possible thanks to the unselfish effort of all the people and, especially, the heroic examples of

bravery demonstrated by the combatants of the FAPLA and security forces, which have been carrying out with real zeal and courage the tough task of combating the counterrevolution.

During this decisive year in which we will commemorate with jubilation and renewed vigilance the 10th anniversary of national independence, the MPLA-Labor Party Political Bureau calls on the workers, peasants, soldiers, students, women, youths, and children — without exception — to move closer behind the party, thus demonstrating that the People's Republic of Angola will never allow subjugation, be it political, economic, or military.

The Political Bureau calls on the combatants, the working people, and each individual citizen to contribute decisively toward defense and increase in production and productivity so that we may indeed successfully pursue the difficult path which will inexorably lead us to socialism. Finally, the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee calls on all party members, members of the Youth Movement of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola, Organization of Angolan Women, National Union of Workers of Angola, Angolan Pioneers' Organization, the People's Vigilance Brigades, and other social organizations, as well as the combatants of the glorious defense and security forces and all the people, to remain ever more firm and confident in the party and government.

Long live the 10th anniversary of national independence. The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Lara Presides Over Party Organization Meeting

MB181631 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] The heads and officials from the departments of organization of the party provincial committees have expressed the need for increased control visits to the party grass root structures. In a meeting held in Kuito recently, the officials concluded that despite the observed shortcomings, the work carried out so far has been positive. The Kuito meeting, whose proceedings were presided over by the heads of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee department of organization and department of support for mass and social organizations, also recommended the revitalization of the party grass root organs. Presiding over the closing session of the meeting, Comrade Lucio Lara, the Central Committee secretary for organization, reiterated the need for party cadres to devote greater attention to the tasks of internal organization, which he described as decisive for the functioning of the party organs.

KUP: Twenty MPLA Soldiers Desert to Zaire

MB210930 (Clandestine) KUP in French to Central and Southern Africa 0600 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] Free Land of Angola, 21 Mar (KUP) — Some 20 MPLA soldiers belonging to the 62d Brigade deserted to Zaire early this week. They were fighting in the diamond-producing Lunda Province.

BOTSWANA

President Masire Appoints Envoy to Sweden

MB151808 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1110 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Text] The president, Dr Quett Masire, has appointed Mr Gaotlhaetse Matlhabaphiri ambassador to Sweden. Mr Matlhabaphiri is former assistant minister of agriculture. The Botswana mission in Sweden opened in February this year. The first person to be posted to it was Mr (Sosara George) as first secretary. He was sent earlier to help set up the new mission. Mr (George) will be joined by the rest of the staff required for the mission during the year.

COMOROS

President Returns, Comments on Coup Attempt

EA201418 Moroni Domestic Service in French 1700 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The president of the republic, His Excellency Mr Ahmed Abdallah Abderemane, returned to Moroni this morning aboard an Air Comoros Boeing 737 after a 2-week private visit abroad, which took him to France and Saudi Arabia. The president of the Republic was welcomed by the whole Cabinet, the commander of the Comoran Armed Forces, [name indistinct], Ndjazidja governor, MPs, the diplomatic corps accredited to Comoros, the commander of the national gendarmerie, members of the Supreme Court, the secretary general to the presidency, the secretary general to the government, and UCP [Comoro Union for Progress] secretary general [words indistinct] of the country.

Listen to the important interview which the president of the Republic accorded to our colleague Ali Saligui.

[Begin recording] [Saligui] Mr President, you have just finished an almost 2-week stay abroad which took you to France and Saudi Arabia. When you were in the French capital, second class soldiers of the presidential guard [words indistinct], with the complicity of civilians, attempted to destabilize the country through a coup d'etat, what you termed on Radio France Internationale as an attempt at evil doing. [Words indistinct]. Mr President?

[Abderemane] First of all, I would like to thank the Comoran people for their calm, for their support for me. About my trip to France and Mecca: I went to France [word indistinct] for personal reasons. Happily, I met friends in France, whom I have appreciated [words indistinct]. Finally, I learned with indignation of the (?rumors), not only the (?rumors) but of the fact that certain Comoran civilians and some of the members of the presidential guard, second class as you said, were clandestinely involved notably in overthrowing [words indistinct]. As you said, [words indistinct] to stage a coup d'etat to destabilize our country so as to kill all those in power, to destroy the regime [words indistinct].

Each of our ministers have responsibilities which should be defended with force. [Words indistinct] justice must not be playful. Tribunals must judge. It should be done. [Words indistinct] they are law breakers because they want to destroy our country. They are law breakers because they wanted to destabilize the state. They are law breakers because they wanted to wreck all that I have done in Comoros. They wanted to destroy and not to build. That is what I meant.

The respect which you have towards foreigners living here is a sign of (?blessing) [words indistinct] such as the cooperating international organizations. Representatives of foreign countries here should be respected and you must always tell them that they should feel at home and they should think accordingly and we must protect them before protecting ourselves. If we ourselves are not protected, we should not protect them. [sentence as heard] If [words indistinct] then Comoros does not exist. There is no country which lives alone, I can assure you, but we cannot live in disorder. I therefore will take measures I judge necessary to punish those lawbreakers severely. An inquiry has already been opened and the authorities will act firmly without partiality, hatred, or grudge. They will follow the right way to act so as [words indistinct] those outside the country as well as Comorans [words indistinct] and those who want power.

How do you want to take over when you want to destroy houses, offices, human beings? With whom do you want to (?cooperate)? I do not see how. One trusts you and you show that you do not deserve this trust from others and authorities. As for me, I have confidence in the Comoran people and I will continue to have confidence in the Comoran people, and the day I really feel that the Comoran people do not need me, I think they should tell me and I will be (?grateful) to them. [passage indistinct]

[Saligui] [Question indistinct]

[Abderemane] [passage indistinct] Relations between France and Comoros are more than friendly. [Words indistinct] journalists as you are, you are human beings, not machines, and you have deficiencies. [passage indistinct] Radio France Internationale has therefore lied in this area. [Words indistinct] and to show that relations between France and Comoros do not exist, if relations between France and Comoros were at the lowest level today, that is to say that there were never good relations between them.

Contrary to what you heard, relations between France and Comoros are better than yesterday. That is what I want to say and what I sincerely think, unless that Radio France Internationale journalist has received information about it. In any case, I do not know that information, unless that information came from the French state, but it is not from the French state because the French representative here has denied it. [passage indistinct]

I wish you to be vigilant to listen, to be vigilant to reply, that you will be vigilant to collect information with accuracy if you sincerely represent France Internationale. Have you replied back to it? Yes or no? [passage indistinct] It is said that there is freedom of press in France. Here we do not have printed press [as heard], but we have radio [words indistinct].

I am happy to be back home today and I wish to repeat that the confidence that the Comoran people have renewed in me [words indistinct] compels me to react perhaps strongly but firmly with good heart, [words indistinct] I know it, but this time we will go deep. We must go thoroughly. One day I told you if you want to carry out a coup d'etat [word indistinct]. You did not listen. What must I do? Must I kill you? I did not do it. My friends did not want to do it. Perhaps they were wrong, or I am right. I do not know. It depends. This does not mean [words indistinct] no matter who they are, military or civilians, without partiality, but firmly and with good heart.

Those who believe in their [word indistinct] one by one: The inquiry is opened. I demand that the Comoran people set aside useless ambitions, watch their villages, and (?check) the ill intentions of those who harbor them so that the Comoran personality can be ever present and so that the Comoran personality will not be destroyed by some of our rivals or our brothers who want to get power by force. This is [word indistinct] which does not exist and has never existed. [Word indistinct] the Comoran people chose me it had seen the [word indistinct].

Do not convince me that it is me, because I also [words indistinct]. You who want power (?in practice), you who want (?to pray) to acquire power [words indistinct]. That is not right, it is not the right way. There is a clean way: Work, show yourself to people and demonstrate to them through your action that you are capable. You know how: not through arms and not by saying that you are the son of so and so. This is out-moded. One becomes somebody, but if he does wrong, he is sent to jail. [passage indistinct] There will be a military trial for 13 days and a civil trial to deal with this matter. We shall see how [word indistinct] and how to handle the matter. [passage indistinct]

This is what I can tell you today. However, before I finish, let me thank the Comorans again for their firmness, their calm, and their support for our action, and those who support our religious clemency, which has already been condemned by (?many). [passage indistinct]. I thank the people once more, for [words indistinct], for having remained vigilant in their efforts to save the Comoros, the Comoran mentality, and the Comoran spirit, so that even our visitors live in peace. By visitors, I mean those who cooperate and foreigners who come to the Comoros [words indistinct] and those who (?work) in a spirit of sacrifice, and not the ill-intentioned people who come to do evil and want to destroy, those who want to settle. To do what? To change the regime. [passage indistinct]. I am talking in this way because I know. I am shocked. It shocks me to see that they want to destroy the country. If they wanted power, it is not long since we had elections. It is not long since [words indistinct] the people, villages, and regions demonstrated their will. Why not today? Everyone wants to be president. [passage indistinct] Then how will this country exist? I wish that people could rally behind them.

Young or old, we must gather enough vigor in order to support the action of our state, for the happy prosperity of our Comoran island.

[Saligui] Thank you, Mr President. [end recording]

LESOTHO

ANC Official Condemns Compatriots' Lawlessness

MB201649 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] A senior official of the ANC has been in Maseru to communicate to the Lesotho Government the ANC's strong condemnation of acts of lawlessness by its refugees in their countries of asylum. The visit was made in connection with the fatal shooting of a Lesotho Paramilitary Force officer by an ANC refugee recently. The senior official expressed that he conveyed ANC's condolences to the family of the deceased, and had also transmitted the organization's assistance for the funeral arrangements.

MALAWI

Banda Urges African Economic Cooperation

MB201715 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] His excellency the life president ngwazi, Dr Kamuzu Banda, said today that the growing economic disparity between the developed and developing countries called for closer cooperation between African countries in expanding their economies.

The life president was speaking at State House in Zomba when he received letters of commission from the new Nigerian High Commissioner to Malawi, Mr Ezekiel Dimka. The life president said it is the strong desire of the Malawi Government to ensure that Malawi and her neighbors developed strong regional communities for the region's future growth and prosperity. The ngwazi told the envoy that in Malawi, agriculture has been the dominant economic activity and principal source of both economic growth and export earnings.

On the political situation, the life president said Malawi firmly believes in the OAU and United Nations and their abiding principles of world peace and human dignity. He said the Malawi Government will cooperate with these organizations, within a reasonable way, to negotiate a peace formula for Namibia. He said that he does not believe that problems facing the southern Africa region can be solved through confrontations.

On his part, the new Nigerian high commissioner commended the bonds of friendship between Malawi and Nigeria, evidenced by the historical ties and close understanding on international forums such as the United Nations. Mr Dimka is based in Lusaka, Zambia.

MAURITIUS

Appointment of New Envoy From France Announced

AB151746 Paris AFP in French 1454 GMT 15 Mar 85

[Excerpt] Paris, 15 Mar (AFP) — Philippe Petit has been appointed French ambassador to Mauritius replacing Henri Bernard, the French External Relations Ministry announced today.

MOZAMBIQUE

R.F. Botha Meets Machel, Delivers Message

MB201818 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] President Samora Machel received today Roelof Botha, the South African minister of foreign affairs, who has delivered a message from Pieter Botha, the South African head of state. The message basically examined the issues related to the implementation of the Nkomati Accord.

Analyzing the situation one year after the signing of the Nkomati Accord, President Samora Machel said the accord has not yet reached its objective, which was fundamental for its signing. President Samora Machel stressed that peace was not achieved in Mozambique, because the South African authorities have not taken energetic decisions to end the activities of the armed bandits who operate from that territory.

In this context, President Samora Machel referred to the recent discovery of a complex network of armed bandits linked to smugglers, currency forgers, gangsters, and international bankers.

The Mozambique head of state said also that the lack of decisive measures by the South African authorities to eliminate the international and imperialist plot from South Africa territory renders void the spirit and letter of the Nkomati Accord.

The meeting was attended by Armando Guebuza, minister to the presidency; Jose Oscar Monteiro, minister of interior; Alcantara Santos, minister of ports and land transport; Teodato Hunguana, second deputy interior minister; and Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Honwana, personal assistant of the president of the Republic. The South African minister was accompanied by high ranking officials of the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs and (Collin Patterson), the South African trade representative in Mozambique.

Maputo Cites RSA on Airspace Restrictions

MB211229 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] An area on the border between Mozambique and South Africa in eastern Transvaal has been declared special restricted airspace. This was reported by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, citing South African Defense Minister General Magnus Malan. The area stretches from Limpopo River in the north to the Swaziland border in the south. According to Gen Malan, the measure is designed to curb smuggling between South Africa and Mozambique and prevent logistic support to armed bandits operating in our country. The minister also said that all possible and necessary technological means will be used to ensure compliance with the measure.

After the signing of the Nkomati Accord, Mozambique has been denouncing frequent violations of the air space by airplanes that supply the armed bandits.

Swedish Official Arrives To Discuss Aid, Security

MB200722 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Gosta Edgren, director general of the Swedish International Development Authority, SIDA, arrived in Maputo early last night to assess various ongoing cooperation projects. During his 5-day stay in Mozambique, Gosta Edgren expects to talk with high-ranking officials in the ministries of foreign affairs, economic affairs in the presidency of the republic, and home trade, and the secretariat of state for fishing. Gosta Edgren told AIM that his agenda includes an increase in the financing of development projects and the security situation concerning Nordic experts working in Mozambique on the various SIDA projects.

SIDA has asked the Swedish Government for an increase of 15 million kronor for Mozambique during the new fiscal year which begins in August. Last year SIDA granted 255 million kronor, about $28 million, to Mozambique. SIDA has been involved in a number of development projects in Mozambique and southern Africa through the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Briefs

Bulgarian Aid— Residents of the Georgi Dimitrov communal ward today attended the symbolic presentation of material and clothes at the local action group headquarters. The ceremony was attended by high-ranking officials of the Maputo local government and officials of the Bulgarian Embassy in Maputo. In their speeches, the Bulgarian officials unanimously stressed the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the peoples, parties, and governments of the two countries. The gift included about 300 pieces of clothing, 39,000 pairs of shoes, and 290,000 meters of fabric. [Excerpts] [*Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 14 Mar 85 MB*]

Envoy to Poland— Julio Braga, the first ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Mozambique to Poland, presented his credentials yesterday. Henryk Jablonski, chairman of the Council of State of that country, received the Mozambican diplomat. Julio Braga is also ambassador to the GDR. [Text] [*Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 21 Mar 85 MB*]

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Leads SWAPO Delegation to PRC, DPRK

For Beijing reportage on the visit to the PRC by a delegation lead by SWAPO President Sam Nujoma, including their meetings with government and party officials, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 14 March China *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

For Pyongyang reportage on the visit to the DPRK by the SWAPO delegation, including their talks with Kim Il-song, DPRK president and secretary general of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea, see the North Korea section of the 20 March Asia and Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

SOUTH AFRICA

Van Niekerk To Attend R.F. Botha-Crocker Talks

MB201206 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The administrator general of South-West Africa/Namibia, Dr Willie van Niekerk, will attend the talks in Cape Town between the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, and the American assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, Dr Chester Crocker.

It has not yet been announced when Dr Crocker will arrive in South Africa for the talks. A spokesman for the department of foreign affairs said in Cape Town that Dr Crocker's preferred program is not here.

Dr Crocker has just ended talks in Cape Verde with Angolan representatives. Reports say that Dr Crocker is believed to have negotiated a compromise offer regarding the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola.

South Africa and the United States have insisted on the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola as a pererequisite for the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia. The Cuban withdrawal would be matched by the South African troop withdrawal from southern Angola and South-West Africa/Namibia.

Talks Under Way

MB211029 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1000 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Text] The latest round of bilateral talks between South Africa and the United States on Namibian independence are under way in Cape Town. Observers say the new round of talks headed by U.S. diplomat Chester Crocker and South African foreign minister Pik Botha are pivotal. Reports say negotiations will focus on a compromise offer of a partial withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola, which Dr Crocker is said to have negotiated with Angolan representatives at Cape Verde earlier this week.

Mozambique Border Declared 'Restricted Airspace'

MB201706 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1656 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] Johannesburg, March 20, SAPA — A measure to prevent support reaching Mozambican rebels from South African territory, and at the same time curb cross-border smuggling activities, was announced from Pretoria tonight.

An SADF spokesman said the minister of defence, General Magnus Malan, had declared the South Africa/Mozambique border area in the eastern Transvaal a special restricted air space. The restricted air space stretches from the Limpopo in the north to Swaziland in the south, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said measure was to curtail smuggling across the border, and to prevent private interests from giving any logistic support to rebel movements in Mozambique. All possible technological aids were being used to ensure effectivity.

In a separate statement, the SAAF [South African Air Force] chief, Lieutenant-General Denis Earp, said the restriction meant pilots would need official permission to fly in the designated zone.

General Earp's statement said:

The existing restricted area FAR 78 stretching from the Limpopo River in the north to the southern border of the Kruger National Park is augmented by an area promulgated in terms of Act 79 (1) (a) of the defence act as a special restricted area. The area concerned is encompassed by the boundaries set out below:

A. From Ressano Garcia-Point 2526 South 3159 East, southwards with the RSA/Mozambique border to the Swaziland border.

B. Thence westward with the RSA/Swaziland borders to a point 2543 South 3125 East in the Jeppes Reef area.

C. Thence northwards in a straight line to Hectorspruit-Point 2526 South 3141 East.

D. Thence eastwards along the ralway line to the Ressano Garcia-Point 2526 South 3159 East.

Authorisation to enter the restricted area, FAR 78, extending over the Kruger National Park, as well as for the special restricted area, can be obtained from air force headquarters. The telephone numbers are (012) 269941 ext 237 and (012) 3232795.

All aircraft obtaining authorisation or aircraft operating in the vicinity of these specific areas are requested to establish radio contact with the lowfeld airspace control sector on frequency 119.0 mhz, General Earp's statement said.

HNP Leader Urges Retention of Racial Sex Laws

MB201754 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] The leader of the Herstigte Nasionale Party [HNP], Mr Jaap Marais, says the Mixed Marriages Act and Section 16 of the Immorality Act are the most justifiable measures a nation can take to defend its racial identity. Addressing the Afrikaner Studente Front [Afrikaner Student Front] at the University of Pretoria, he said that the two acts could indeed be regarded as discriminatory, but that when the survival of a people was at stake, then the people had the right to discriminate. The acts, he said, should be retained as the growing assimilation of white and nonwhite races in the social and labor fields would lead to more and more iove affairs across the color bar.

Black Sash Reiterates Stand on Government Policies

MB201123 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 20 Mar 85 p 9

[By Debbie March in Port Elizabeth and Anton Harber in Johannesburg]

[Text] With Mrs Sheena Duncan securely back at the helm as National President, the Black Sash reiterated several of its former stands and slated several so-called Government "reforms", at their annual conference held in Port Elizabeth at the weekend.

Reports and discussions regarding removals, housing, education, influx control, pension schemes, the minimum wage, detentions, the Namibian question, and military conscription contributed part of the Sash's 30th conference marred last Thursday by the slashing of delegates tyres and the death of Mrs Molly Blackburn, apparently from a heart attack.

Government "reforms", especially the influx control reform, were generally distrusted as something designed only to temporarily pacify the people. They were not genuine moves to remove apartheid.

In statements released to the press, the Black Sash paid particular attention to the Namibian question, the minimum wage, court interpretation, and detentions.

Reiterating their call to ending the war and illegal occupation of Namibia, the Black Sash called for:

— The immediate implementation of the United Nations restoration.

— The disbanding of the notorious paramilitary police task force "koevoet".

— The release of all Namibian political prisoners and detainees.

— The abolition of the Terrorism Act and all attorney-general proclamations relating to security in Namibia.

The statement followed from a joint report compiled by Mrs Blackburn and Mrs Di Bishop after a visit to Namibia and the operational area in September last year.

— The Black Sash also condemned Dr Zac de Beer's call for the scrapping of a minimum wage. "To scrap the minimum wage at a time of such high employment can only lead to a decline in overall living standards. The constantly increasing cost of living will exuberate this."

This move was, more importantly, a move to undermine and weaken the trade union movement, the statement continued.

— The Sash rejected the call for "charge and release" and called for the "unconditional release" of all detainees and of the Internal Security Act in its present form.

"The call for 'charge and release' in South Africa is inappropriate because in this society the majority of people are voteless. They have no say in the formulation of the laws which govern them and do not respect the laws designed to subjugate them nor feel bound to them," the statement read.

— The Sash's Johannesburg Advice Office highlighted in a report the "complete state of disorderliness" in the Transvaal black townships.

"Chaos and confusion in black urban townships has increased markedly over the last year. We do not refer only to the protests and unrest, which were the mark of 1984 but to the total lack of predictable and efficient administration.

"We have often reported in the past on bureaucratic inefficiency, obstruction, maladministration and corruption but we have not before, experienced such a complete state of disorderliness in administrative structures.

"There is no orderly government there is only repression, victimisation and disintegration of community," it said.

— A special report on repression concluded that 1984 and the first two months of 1985 witnessed "represssion on a scale unprecdented since 1976/7", with 1,149 detentions, five deaths in Security Police custody and 165 people killed in unrest.

The report also highlighted what it called "informal repression", such as the harassment of opposition leaders, repeated bids to prevent organisations getting the use of halls for meetings in townships and the abundance of fake and disruptive pamphlets.

— Sash also lashed out at the quality of interpretation currently provided in the courts. "Many injustices occurred because the vast majority of blacks are undefended and have little or no knowledge of the law."

Sash recommended the present standard of intepretation be drastically improved, that interpreters receive more thorough training and that eventually, proceedings be conducted as far as possible, in the language of the accused.

— In a sixth Press statement, the Black Sash recommended the powers of the legal aid be extended in order to implement the recommendations of the Hoexter Commission, and that further avenues be investigated with a view to providing legal assistance for everyone who needed it in both criminal and civil matters.

Referring to the announced closure of the *RAND DAILY MAIL* the Black Sash said the State President's reference to "a new South Africanism" following the announcement, was more tragic than the loss of the newspaper itself.

"The closing of the *RAND DAILY MAIL* is one of the tragedies of the current recession. Even worse is the State President's reaction and the sinister threat that the media would have to take notice of that spirit."

The Black Sash questioned whether the "new South Africanism" meant the repression of dissent, violence and chaos prevalent today.

"How can the South African Government speak of a 'new spirit' of national unity in the midst of a state national crisis precipitated by apartheid policies and practices which offer nothing worthwhile to the black majority and which is ruining the country?."

Government's Social Engineering Plan Examined

MB200830 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 17 Mar 85 p 17

[By Brian Pottinger]

[Text] The Government — to all intents and purposes — has no final plan. Eighteen months ago P.W. Botha hinted as much when he admitted he was feeeling his way in the dark. In the last two weeks President Botha has confirmed in several speeches that there can be no ultimate vision.

The agenda is, in effect, now open. All this is remarkably good news for South Africa; in fact, economic pinch aside, the bubbly should be flowing.

Twenty-six years ago the Government had A Plan. They implemented it diligently and without compassion. And they never really accepted, or even understood, its enormous human and financial implications.

Like most social engineering — Soviet collectivisation, Tanzania's ujama's, Pol Pot's unique brand of Kampuchean efflux control — the National Party's plan has not worked.

The plan has destroyed short-term prospects for a viable peasant or yeomanry agricultural base — along with much of the natural fertility of the rural areas where a third of the country's black population lives.

The country is short of half a million houses, skilled labour is at a premium and over-rewarded, the disparities in life expectancy between rich and poor is unconscionable.

That is only half of it; the plan ruptured human relations, spawned successive generations of radicalism, sired a bloated bureaucracy to serve legislators who obsessively legislated, gave free enterprise a bad name in the eyes of the people most desperately in need of its benefits and generally made the complicated enough task of reconciling the interests of black and white Africans that much more difficult.

The plan really started falling apart in the mid-70s. The Government took to muttering about "Total Onslaughts" — what did they expect with such a Total Policy?

The Suffering Seventies passed into the Aching Eighties and a new vision has seized the Government. For them it is radical, precisely because it does not have vacuum-packed means and take-away ends.

The consequent philosophical and political fluidity has made the impossible in many ways the possible; the improbable increasingly turns into the probable.

If one is looking for a particular cause, it is possibly the ruling party's stunned discovery that resources are finite. And if one has to look for a precipitating manual — South Africa's political 95 Theses — it might as well be an unpretentious little yellow book the old President's Council's science committee brought out last year on demography and the future.

The bottom line is that this country's resources can support only 80-million people by the year 2000 and that means every family should be pegging progeny at a statistical 2,1 little 'uns.

Ways to achieve that target include massive social upliftment programmes, purposive rural development, an educational revolution, urbanisation and accommodative political reform.

Implications of failure — the doomsday scenario — are not lost on President Botha, who has adopted an almost crusading zeal in warning of the looming crisis. Neither, conversely, are the implications of success.

This most crucial of Save South Africa campaigns is death in the pot for the old plan.

The demise of the old plan opens vistas of vast opportunity. Instead of the sterility of imposed, sectarian, ideological models, the country is suddenly talking about the possibilities of making politics the servant of the people instead of people the slaves of politics.

From the ferment comes, hopefully, a more organic political process.

But not everybody will be rejoicing at the plan's wake.

People who have lived for 26 years with its conforting support will feel bereft. Plans — like conspiracy theories — are always the easiest and intellectually most dishonest way of coming to grips with complex realities; perhaps that accounts for the enduring popularity of conspiracy theories in South Africa.

It is rather like the eight-year-old who discovers Father Christmas does not exist. The response is at first confusion, then anger at the perpetrators of the hoax, then embarrassment and finally equanimity.

The salvation of this country will depend on how quickly the compulsive plan-peddlars reach the last condition.

But if it is true that the Government now has no final plan, it is also true it has some broad general limits in mind.

And it all has to do with maintenance of "standards". This is usually couched in terms of preservation of "Christian values", but it really boils down to keeping trains running on time, being able to oppose a Government without ending up dead in Zoo Lake and more or less keeping the larder stocked in accustomed style.

President Nyerere once observed that efficiency was the last refuge of the colonialist. That may be true, but he could hardly deny that efficiency created jobs and puts food in people's stomachs.

White South Africans have come to accept a level of public administration efficiency which is high by standards on the continent. Its maintenance is a source of legitimate concern for the Government in the politics of transition.

The debate over political freedoms seems to drift lazily around the same core: protection of minorities. And while everybody agrees that minorities should be protected, there is a big difference of opinion about how: the white nationalist's view of statutorily entrenched racial exclusivity versus the black nationalist's more cosmic concern with non-racial egalitarianism.

A compromise will be a long time a-coming but the latest political ferment has brought it that step closer.

The last "standard" is the most delicate — economics. The Government has chosen as its major vehicle for development the free market system. And it has embraced the cause with the tiresome enthusiasm and clumsiness of a reformed chain-smoker.

A basic irony does not escape blacks. When poor whites needed upliftment it was more State socialism, not less, that did the job. When blacks need upliftment, free enterprise is suddenly the vogue.

Whereas before it was the cradle-to-grave security of the bureaucracy that helped a disadvantaged community pull themselves up by the bootstraps, the buzzwords now are rugged capitalism and "sweat equity".

White South Africans standard of living -- given the country's total resources -- are too high. Black South African's standards -- given the same resources -- are too low. Inching white expectations down and nudging black circumstances up is the name of the game.

The pursuit of equilibrium need not be fruitless. If we accept the enormous potential of hybrid political systems emerging organically from the maelstrom, surely we can envisage matching hybrid economic systems that take into account the variety of interests, traditions and demands of the country: capitalism, communalism, socialism.

The Government is slowly unfolding the canvas. It is making new paints available and is prepared to dish out brushes to a wider circle of daubers.

President Botha -- to his credit -- has cleared away much of the past debris and taken the country to the brink of a new, open and demanding phase of its history.

So what should the "opposition" bottom line be?

The obvious first point is the halting of Government spending on grossly expensive ideological objectives.

To meet the demands of modernising South Africa, every cent is going to count, the cost of every new job minimised.

The government must get out of Namibia, the decentralisation policy needs review, independent homelands are a wasteful absurdity, influx control in its present form a prodigious waste of effort and a criminal frittering away of the latent initiative and expertise locked in the urbanising communities.

A second point involves civil rights. South Africa has a disgraceful human rights record -- even by comparison with some neighboring black states.

Worse still, the ethos has produced an activist political element in an otherwise exemplary police force.

Stability is one side of the reform coin. But represession is equally the flip-side of the revolutionary one.

The perhaps apocrophal story is told of the American officer in Vietnam who reported that to save the village he had to destroy it.

In saving South Africa's village of order, the Government has destroyed its village of justice. It must be resurrected.

The third issue has to do with whom one talks -- the daubers at the canvas.

The government tendency has been to talk only to those they want to hear; it is a policy that has ensured they invariably consult with yesterday's radicals who are all to often today's posturing irrelevancies.

Worse still, it puts the Government three steps behind the game.

At a time when the impossible is slowly turning to the possible, now more than ever the Government must scale yet greater psychological barriers to begin the debate with the real opposition -- the African National Congress and its domestic and more public associates.

The Opposition, for its part, needs to junk some of its ideological paraphernalia and have the courage to make its own leap of faith.

It is time to make words not wars, lest a precious and perhaps unrepeatable opportunity for peace be burnt away through lack of courage, conviction or compassion of the country's leaders here and abroad.

Commentary Examines Disinvestment Campaign

MB201705 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Station commentary: "Disinvestment"]

[Text] When South Africa's deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Louis Nel, said that disinvestment was an act of violence against the country's blacks, he was not overstating the case. Responsible leaders across the entire political spectrum in South Africa have pointed out that the black peoples, the very ones who it is intended should benefit from disinvestment, will suffer most if the measure is successfully carried through. Speaking in the House of Representatives, the chamber for Colored members of Parliament, Mr Nel said in his debate on disinvestment that it would lead to massive unemployment. When a black man loses his job, Mr Nel said, he does not go on the dole, he goes hungry and that is a dangerous situation. It, in fact, amounted to an act of violence and could not be tolerated.

The increase in unemployment resulting from large-scale disinvestment from South Africa was referred to some months ago by Dr Alan Paton, one of the country's most liberal thinkers and outspoken critic of the government, at the time of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Bishop Desmond Tutu. Questioning Bishop Tutu's morality on the issue of disinvestment, Dr Paton said: I do not understand how you can put a man out of work for a high moral principle. It would go against my own deepest principles to advocate anything that would put a man, especially a black man, out of a job. In yesterday's debate in the House of Representatives, Mr Peter Hendrickse of the Labor Party said: If disinvestment and sanctions are brought into being in South Africa on a large scale at this stage, the result would definitely be increased misery, poverty, unemployment, and racism, and then we can kiss peaceful change goodbye.

Why, with the weight of evidence pointing to the fact that blacks will suffer most from disinvestment, is it still being campaigned for so assiduously in the United States? Surely ignorance of the fact that blacks will suffer most can no longer be an excuse. The campaigners are therefore totally insensitive to the suffering they could cause. Why? They also advocate that the U.S. Government should greatly reduce its influence in South Africa. Again the question: Why? Is it perhaps not, as Mr Nel suggested, a plan to make the region ripe for other influences?

Johannesburg Views Foreign TV Program on Nation

MB210707 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 Mar 85

[Station Commentary]

[Text] ABC Television's Nightline series on this country is proving to be quite as lively as its producers intended. For South Africans who have been watching excerpts on television, such high profile exposure abroad of the political debate, the good and the bad surfacing with equal frankness, is an unusual experience. It is also a very useful one for a country that undoubtedly tends to be too insular.

There is evidently a growing readiness in American media to deal in greater depth with the South African situation — with a more serious portrayal of its complexities. Nightline in one of the most highly rated public affairs programs in the United States. It is devoting its programs throughout this week to discussions by participants in the national debate, the whole spectrum of political opinion being reflected.

As is to be expected, particular issues are being highlighted with a somewhat fierce intensity. There are unlikely to be any outright winners in such a polemic. For South Africa, however, it serves a far more valuable purpose in the long-run than making a few transitory gains in polishing its image in America. Every program of this kind makes a contribution not only to the American public's knowledge of South African affairs, but especially important in creating an informed opinion, to its awareness of their complexity.

The history of this infinitely diverse society, the many and often diametrically opposed forces operating in its politics, and the daunting challenges they pose in building a just and stable dispensation, some understanding of all this is necessary in evaluating the pace and direction of the country's reform program and an informed American opinion is important for this country, just as it is necessary for South Africans to take cognizance of views there and elsewhere in the West on their situation. They simply cannot afford the luxury of isolationism, of ignoring the outside world as a factor influencing the country's destiny.

Like it or not, South Africa exists on a globe in which the actions of the most powerful states have far-reaching repercussions on the others. Its welfare at home and security in the world around it depend in no small measure on attitudes in the West, and especially in the United States, towards it. To pretend otherwise is self-defeating. To refuse contact and reject all criticism on the ground that it amounts to interference is to acquiesce simplicity in the process of steadily weaking South Africa in the world.

There is no alternative to open, aggressive participation in the arena where ideas are exchanged and opinions formed. It is there that this country, acknowledging its faults but insisting that its virtues should also be acknowledged, will have to fight and win the struggle.

Minister Announces 9 Gas Wells Commercially Viable

MB191929 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 19 Mar 85

[Text] The minister of mineral and energy affairs, Mr Daniel Steyn, says it has been estimated that 9 of the 14 wells which have produced gas along the coast near Mossel Bay have the potential of being commercially viable sources of natural gas.

In a written reply to a question in Parliament, Mr Steyn said that one of the wells had been clasified as noncommercial, while four others had shown only minor signs of gas.

Because of the involvement of the private sector and of possible greater participation by the private sector, Soekor [Southern Oil Exploration Corporation] was under an obligation not to divulge information on the tested gas yields.

The first well had been completed in January 1981, and the 14th in January this year.

Briefs

New Envoy to FRG— The Department of Foreign Affairs has announced the appointment of Mr Willem Retief as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the FRG, and as chief of the South African military mission in Berlin. He has served as consul general in Munich, and as ambassador and permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Mr Retief succeeds Mr Neil van Reerden, who is being transfered to head office. [Text] [*Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0900 GMT 19 Mar 85 MB*]

SWAZILAND

Queen Regent Receives Credentials of Envoys

MB150615 Mbabane Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 14 Mar 85

[Text] Her majesty, the Indlovukazi and Queen Regent Ntombi, today received letters of credence from four ambassadors and one high commissioner at a colorful ceremony held at Manzana guest house. The ambassadors are Mr Gerard Serre of France, Mr Giorgio Testori of Italy, Mr Masatoshi Ota of Japan, Mr Hugo Carsten of The Netherlands, and the Australian high commissioner to Swaziland, Mr R.N. Birch. Accepting their letters of credence, the Queen Regent Ntombi welcomed all the foreign envoys on her own behalf, the Government of Swaziland, and the entire Swazi nation. Her majesty the indlovukazi expressed her hope that now that they have presented their letters of credence, they will work hard and improve the already existing relations between their respective countries and the Kingdom of Swaziland. She also conveyed messages of goodwill to their heads of state. The ceremony was also attended by members of the supreme council of state and cabinet ministers.

ZAMBIA

President Kaunda Supports PLO-Jordan Agreement

MB181852 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Mar 85

[Text] His Excellency President Kaunda has said that Zambia supports the agreement between the PLO leader, Yasir 'Arafat, and Jordan's King Husayn.

Speaking at State House when (Sami Bakr), the PLO's special envoy, presented him with a message from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Dr Kaunda said the agreement whereby Jordan and the PLO will work together to ensure the Palestinians' liberation was correct in every sense of the word because Israel actions toward Arabs will never be justified.

The president said Israel's behavior toward the Palestinian people was no different from that of apartheid South Africa. He said it was saddening to see that the same Jews who suffered at the hands of Hitler are now capable of suppressing others. The president also condemned the way some big powers deliberately complicated peace in the Middle East just because they have strategic interest in Israel.

Kaunda Urges Antiapartheid Campaign Intensification

MB201220 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 20 Mar 85

[Text] His excellency the president, Dr Kaunda, has urged the international community to intensify its sustained campaign for the elimination of apartheid and support for the liberation struggle in South Africa.

Dr Kaunda said the evil system of apartheid remains the root cause of tension and conflict in South Africa and the entire subregion.

The president made this call today in his message to the chairman of the United Nations Special Committee Against Apartheid, General Joseph Garba, on the occasion of the international day for the elimination of racial discrimination.

Dr Kaunda said the South African regime must as the first step release all political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela and his fellow nationalists, and engage in direct talks with them.

The president reaffirmed Zambia's total commitment to the struggle and unflinching solidarity for the peoples who are struggling to free themselves from apartheid, oppression, and injustice in South Africa and Namibia.